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Yeltsin Welcomes CIS Decision on Close Integration

LD2004215494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1453 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—"For the first time all CIS countries have agreed to (pursue) close integration and set up a single standing economic commission for economic integration between countries," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at a meeting with the heads of Russian regional administrations in Moscow on Wednesday.

Summing up the results of the CIS summit meeting, Yeltsin praised Ukraine's decision to join the economic union as an associated member.

The CIS leaders adopted decisions on 26 political, economic, border, military and international issues. The president noted that they had also discussed the situation in trouble spots and ways to settle conflicts there.

Speaking about the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, Yeltsin said "there are signs of real influence on the settlement of these processes."

Shumeyko on Promoting CIS Cooperation, Harmony

LD1904184694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer L. Panova] Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federal Assembly [as heard], held a routine traditional roundtable in Moscow today. The journalists who assembled there learned about his views on a number of currently topical issues, specifically, on developing cooperation between CIS countries.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] As chairman of the Council of Heads of State, the president has proposed drawing up a long-term plan. Two councils of ministers—the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Council of Defense Ministers—have been instructed to prepare an initial document, a draft plan for CIS development toward integration. [end recording]

[Panova] In Vladimir Shumeyko's view, after such a plan is adopted, the CIS charter will be somewhat amended.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] The point is that it was very clearly mentioned at the Council of Heads of State and at the Council of Heads of Government that members of the Commonwealth must not be in a state of war with each other. There is, perhaps, no other case in the whole world when members of the same commonwealth are fighting each other. I am speaking about Azerbaijan and Armenia. [end recording]

[Panova] Regarding Russia joining the NATO Partnership for Peace program, Shumeyko stressed that a clear mechanism for implementing decisions is the main condition to be observed here.

Incident With Order on CIS Military Bases 'Closed'

LD1904145794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 19 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr—The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that the incident which arose in connection with a publication of "an order by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin on setting up military bases in CIS states and Latvia" is closed. This was announced today at a briefing by Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department.

He underlined that "all the necessary explanations have been provided at the necessary level. We will not provide any further explanations".

M. Demurin reiterated that "no one has seen this document" at the Russian Foreign Ministry. Therefore, he said, "it would be very strange to carry out some or other investigation at the Foreign Ministry with regard to a document prepared by the president's administration, if that is indeed the case."

CIS Countries in Debt to Russia for Communications

LD2104104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1030 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS—CIS countries owe to Russia altogether hundreds of billions of roubles for telephone and postal services, Vladimir Bulgak, Russian minister of communications, told ITAR-TASS. Meanwhile, Russia has fully repaid these republics for similar services.

The reason for one-way traffic in the settlement of accounts is that banks fail to settle the problem of so-called non-trade operations. Roubles freely flow to CIS states toward the payment for communications services, while the national currencies of CIS countries do not cross the Russian border without being exchanged for roubles at the appropriate rate.

In December last, communications ministers of CIS countries met in Minsk and issued a joint statement urging heads of CIS countries to influence their central banks to speed up mutual settlement, Bulgak said. Certain progress is in the offing, but the problem has not

been solved in a cardinal way and the banking mechanism has not been adjusted. Money from Uzbekistan, Ukraine and other countries, even if they have it, cannot reach Russia.

"I talked on the matter with Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko four times. There is voluminous correspondence with the bank on the matter", Bulgak said. "We tried to cope with the situation by mutual settlement, clearing, barter and other settlement, but all this does not amount to a civilised way of dealing with the problem", Bulgak said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 Apr

LD2104064194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0523 GMT 21 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS—Newspapers focus their attention today on the social and economic problems of Russia.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Sergey Glazyev, chairman of the State Duma committee on the economic policy. He believes that "the president's new economic policy was left unnoticed by the government." He writes: "A draft agreement on the establishment of civil peace, submitted for discussion by the working group, does not contain any specific proposals in the economic sphere, which threatens to turn the crucially important process of achieving accord in society on the key directions of the country's home and foreign policy into another formal function, which can only discredit the idea of the establishment of civil peace in Russia, for which our society has suffered so much."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publishes an article which explains to the readers such notions as the subsistence level, the poverty line and the minimal consumer breadbasket. "The cost of the consumer breadbasket in Russia was 40,000 roubles in March this year, while the per capita subsistence level was about 60,000 roubles in the same month. In January 1993 35.5 per cent of Russian citizens had money incomes below the subsistence level. The figure for December 1993 was 26.7 per cent, and for March 1994—17.5 per cent. In 1993 13 per cent of the country's population had incomes, which were smaller than the cost of the minimal set of basic foodstuffs. The figure for the first quarter of 1994 was 6 per cent."

The newspaper explains such a wide range of criteria for determining the living standards of Russians by the fact that at present there is no law on the subsistence level. "Four versions of the draft law on the subsistence level, which explain the term in this or that way, have been submitted for consideration to the State Duma committee on social issues. Meanwhile, our incomes are compared either with the subsistence level, or with the cost of the consumer breadbasket, when our living standards are determined," the newspaper writes.

TRUD carries an article dealing with the economic reform in Russia, which is entitled "delayed-action mine". "The excessive stratification of society is creating a serious threat for the reform. When the difference in wages between the 'upper' and 'lower' groups reaches 40 times, it will mean the end to the Russian reform. The growing non-payment of wages is aggravating the situation. A total amount of the non-paid wages, which was increasing from one month to the next, reached two trillion 374 billion roubles by April 1. Some 20 million people have not received the wages that are due to them."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an article under the headline "How the Black Sea Fleet should be divided." It analyses the agreement on the stage-by-stage settlement of problems of the Black Sea Fleet, which was signed recently. "Will the agreement boost cooperation, or will it become a mine laid under Russian-Ukrainian relations? Ten days, set by the agreement which was signed on April 15, are expiring, but there is no mechanism of the division of the fleet in a new proportion. Dificulties are sure to emerge when the sides start to determine what part of the fleet will go to each of the sides. First, it is difficult to say how many of the fleet's ships will make 15-20 per cent. Second, Ukraine is not going to take into account in the negotiating process the part of the fleet, which it has already appropriated unilaterally and which includes several ships and about 60 units and facilities of the Black Sea Fleet."

PRAVDA carries an article about the Bosnian crisis. It criticises Russian diplomacy in the Balkan peninsula and points out that "the proparanda uproar about the recent accomplishments of Moscow diplomats in the Bosnian conflict is intended for naive people. The game has long been played on a different field... Russia actually has no policy in the Balkan peninsula."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA frontpages an article about the birth anniversary of Vladimir Lenin. The newspaper writes that the Lenin mausoleum will be opened on April 22.

Bases To Be Established in CIS States With Consent

LD2004182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1655 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palaria and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Russia will set up military bases in CIS states with their consent, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Wednesday.

The announcement was made after the signing of an inter-governmental agreement on military and technical cooperation between Russia and Turkey in Moscow today.

Grachev said Russia will have three military bases in Georgia and two in Armenia. In Azerbaijan, Russia plans to establish a military facility which is vital not only for Russia, but also for other CIS states. He said it will be a missile warning post in Gaballa.

Grachev To Brief NATO Officials on Partnership Stance

LD2004170794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palaria and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will visit Brussels on May 25-26 to inform NATO officials about Russia's position on the Partnership for Peace programme.

Following recent NATO air strikes in Bosnia, the Russian Defence Ministry "has slightly reviewed its stand on the matter, taking into account the position Russia holds in Europe and in the rest of the world," Grachev said.

Speaking at a meeting with visiting Turkish Defence Minister Mehmet Golhan in Moscow on Wednesday, Grachev said that during his visit to Brussels he will also brief the defence ministers of NATO and other countries on the key provisions of Russia's military doctrine.

Grachev Deems NATO Air Strikes 'Extremely Dangerous'

LD2004163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Parlariya and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defense minister, considers that the Bosnian conflict can only be resolved by political means. "We reject the use of air strikes by UN-operated aircraft, regarding it as extremely dangerous," the Russian minister stressed today after signing a Russian-Turkish agreement on cooperation in the military-technical sphere. He feels that this path will not yield any positive results whatsoever. On the contrary, Pavel Grachev pointed out, these "often inaccurate strikes humiliate the military."

He said that the Russian Defense Ministry does not have a clear view of the situation around the Bosnian town of Gorazde. "We do not believe in whitewashing the Bosnian Serbs. Both warring parties are to blame in this situation," Pavel Grachev noted. The minister disclosed that on Sunday he had spoken to General Mladic, the commander of the Serb Army in Bosnia, and had asked him not to attack Gorazde. As a result, the defense minister added, the Serbs held their fire for two days, but the immediate response of the other side was to go on the offensive.

Replying to a question on the possibilities of sending additional Russian peacekeeping forces to the former Yugoslavia, Pavel Grachev stressed that 200-300 men would not improve the situation. In his opinion, in order to solve the Bosnian problem by military means it would be necessary to enlist 60-70,000 servicemen of the UN peacekeeping forces. "But this is unrealistic," he noted. "This would mean the beginning of large-scale combat operations, war."

In Pavel Grachev's opinion, the Russian president's initiative, which was expressed on 19 April during his telephone conversation with German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, is worthy of attention.

It essentially means that the presidents of Russia and the United States, the leaders of the countries of the European Community, and the political and military leaders of the former Yugoslavia should meet in any European country to discuss the prospects for a way out of the crisis.

Kozyrev Charges Serb Actions Unjustified

LD2004201294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1916 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—The bombardment by Bosnian Serbs of civilian targets in Gorazde cannot be justified and goes against the interests of the Serbs themselves and against the interests of Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said today, speaking before journalists after talks with international mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

At the same time, Russia's chief diplomat continued, it is impossible to agree with the logic of increasing NATO air strikes in so far as this would run the risk of an escalation. It would be a mistake on the part of NATO and the Western states to make a decision on the possibility of further military escalation without at least simultaneously having a coordinated political approach.

Now, more than ever before, Kozyrev emphasized, the time has come for Russia, the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union to work out a joint political stance before the conflicting sides, so that they are left with no doubts reagarding the need to come to an agreement instead of going from one crisis to another. At the same time, the Serbian side must understand that each step along the path of a comprehensive cessation of hostilities will be accompanied by a corresponding lifting of sanctions.

Yeltsin Proposes 'More Energetic' Bosnia Peace Moves

LD2004200794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Today Russian President Boris Yeltsin proposed at the meeting of the Russian Security Council that moves for settlement of the Bosnian crisis ought to be more energetic. Interfax learned that the Bosnian crisis had not been on the agenda.

Yeltsin pointed out that the Russian position on the issue remained the same. He also stated that utilization of military force, or such a serious air strike, without its prior discussion in the UN Security Council was unacceptable.

The Russian Security Council considered possible developments in Bosnia. Sources in the Russian Security Council told Interfax that the military approach to settlement in ex-Yugoslavia had been estimated as unproductive.

Yeltsin emphasized that a summit with the participation of Russia, the U.S. and other parties concerned could play an important role in solution of the crisis.

Interfax learned that almost all members of the Russian Security Council had spoken on the Russian policy in the Caucuses. Yeltsin stressed that the lack of a single state policy in this region was regrettable. He proposed that priorities of Russia's policy in the Caucuses be defined. This concerns not only the Trans-Caucasian region within the composition of Russia but also within the composition of the Caucasian independent states.

The members of the RF Security Council pointed out that a balanced and weighed approach to developments in the Caucasian Region in general was needed.

Yeltsin said not only the interests of the Russian and Caucasian independent states must be taken into consideration but also that of other states concerned.

To define the policy of Russia it was necessary to know the real problems of the region, Yeltsin underlined. All moves there must be based on unification of the Caucasian peoples instead of their separation. No prosperity would be possible for these peoples under a policy of disintegration leading to violation of the territorial integrity and further confrontation between the peoples and the states, he stated.

Yeltsin stressed that a single Caucuses would be in the interests of Russia and all peoples living in this region. He said primary attention must be paid to the proposals which could bring the conflicting parties together. For instance, when resolving the Ossetian-Ingush conflict it was necessary to take into account both old and new traditions. Influential leaders must be invited to participate in the talks. Everything possible must be done to bring about economic development of Caucuses and for providing jobs for the population, all of which could eliminate the existing problems, Yeltsin suggested.

Commenting on the relations with Chechnya, Yeltsin emphasized the necessity for a single basis for further dialogue with representatives of the official Groznyy so that Chechnya remained within the composition of Russia.

On support for Russian Cossacks, it was stressed that a special federal program must be worked out. The members of the Security Council stood for participation of Cossacks in the state structures, in particular in the army, in the border defense troops and in the law-enforcement bodies.

Yeltsin, Clinton Hold Phone Conversation on Bosnia

LD2004200194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Vanichkin and Andrey Loshchilin]

[Text] Washington, 20 Apr—U.S. President Bill Clinton has just spoken on the telephone with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The leaders of the two states discussed the current situation in Bosnia and measures that the international community may take in order to urgently normalize the situation around Gorazde.

According to reports from informed sources, the prospects for widening the use of the NATO air forces against the Bosnian Serbs, a toughening of economic sanctions in relation to Belgrade, and the holding of an international conference on a Bosnian settlement, of which Russia was the initiator, were touched upon during the course of the telephone conversation.

In connection with his conversation with B. Yeltsin, the U.S. President postponed a news conference in the White House, earlier scheduled for 2300 Moscow time, by one hour.

Leaders Agree on International Summit

LD2104100694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Apr—A meeting between Boris Yeltsin, Bill Clinton, representatives of the United Nations and the European Union, to settle the Balkan

conflict is possible within a month, Vyacheslav Kostikov, Russian Federation president's press secretary, told a Kremlin briefing today.

He said that late last night Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton had a long telephone conversation, lasting some 40 minutes. Vyacheslav Kostikov noted that during the conversation the Russian Federation president said "Russia and the United States have a common path of democracy and partnership, there is no crack in the partnership, but a sober and pragmatic account of national interests does exist."

The Russian Federation president again confirmed Russia's position with regard to NATO's bombing raids. "Russia is not a supporter of any party to the conflict, but it does have and will continue to have its own levers to influence the situation in the region," Kostikov said. He also said that during his telephone conversation with Bill Clinton, Boris Yeltsin yet again came out "categorically against bombing raids not previously agreed upon with Russia, and in response, got Clinton's assurance that the USA would refrain from sharp actions in this direction."

Vyacheslav Kostikov thinks that in order to settle the Balkan crisis, it is necessary to find "a single plan and to set about implementing it." "The attempt by the parties involved to get individual dividends from the crisis is doomed to fail and is not constructive," the press secretary emphasized.

Decisions To Be Made 'Jointly'

AU2104100194 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Moscow, April 21 (AFP)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his US counterpart Bill Clinton have agreed to hold an international summit meeting on the Bosnia crisis, possibly as soon as next month, a spokesman said Thrusday.

Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, told reporters at a briefing that summit was discussed in a phone conversation between the two leaders late Wednesday and would include in addition to themselves leaders from the United Nations, the European Union and the warring sides in the former Yugoslavia.

The two leaders, who spoke for about 40 minutes, agreed that the conference required careful planning but stressed that the situation was "red-hot" in Bosnia, Kostikov said.

"The assurance was given that all decisions to resolve the conflict would be jointly taken", Kostikov added.

"Any attempt at an individual, unilateral solution is not constructive," he said.

Yeltsin reiterated his firm stand in favor of peaceful solutions and his rejection of "any type of bombing" by NATO warplanes in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

In Paris, French President Francois Mitterrand expressed satisfaction over the planned conference, which he said should be held as soon as possible considering the urgency of the situation, his spokesman Jean Musitelli said Thursday.

Text of Yeltsin Proposal for Summit

PM2004181594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Text of "Statement of the President of the Russian Federation": "Boris Yeltsin: 'I Confirm the Proposal To Hold a Summit Meeting Between Russia, the United States, and the European Union and with the Participation of the United Nations'"]

[Text] "The conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina is on the brink of a dangerous escalation despite Russia's energetic diplomatic efforts undertaken jointly with the United Nations and other members of the international community. The Bosnian Serb leadership must honor the commitments that it made to Russia, end the attacks and withdraw from the city of Gorazde, which has been declared a "safe area" by the United Nations, ensure the conditions for the entry of UN forces there, and end the blockade of UN personnel in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"The world community is called upon to adopt resolute measures to achieve a political solution to the Bosnian crisis.

"In this connection I confirm the proposal to hold a summit meeting between Russia, the United States, and the European Union with the participation of the United Nations.

"Of course, such a meeting must be thoroughly prepared. The corresponding instructions have been given to the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry."

[Dated] The Kremlin, Moscow, 19 April 1994.

Lord Owen, Stoltenburg Arrive for Talks on Bosnia

Owen on Need To Use Force

LD2004164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—Lord Owen, cochairman of the conference on the former Yugoslavia, has arrived in Moscow from London today. Thorvald Stoltenberg, another representative of this forum, is expected to arrive in the Russian capital tomorrow. The two diplomats will have talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The question of Russia's participation in political decisionmaking on Bosnia-Herzegovina will be at the center of their talks.

Russia should take part not only in drawing up the map of the division of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the talks regarding sanctions against Yugoslavia, but also in adopting resolutions on the military actions that the international community should be taking in this region, Lord Owen said to journalists before his departure for Moscow. The Russians understand that we need to use force, he noted, and our key task is to get them on our side. What we cannot afford is to allow the UN Security Council to be split.

Envoys, Kozyrev Hold News Conference

LD2004214594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2005 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The well-known diplomats David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg arrived in Moscow today. This evening they had talks with Andrey Kozyrev.

[Correspondent Mikhail Aleksandridi] A news conference was held after their talks. [passage omitted]

[Aleksandridi] In Thorvald Stoltenberg's opinion, regular consultations between the co-chairmen of the Coordinating Committee and the Russian side had played an important role in the quest for a peaceful solution of the Bosnian problem. However, in the existing situation, David Owen thinks, it is necessary in order to attain this goal to employ a carrot-and-stick policy, that is to combine the threat of armed pressure with the lifting of the anti-Serb sanctions in the event of the Serbs preferring peace to war.

Owen, Stoltenberg Favor Quadrilateral Talks

LD2004191894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1841 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the co-chairmen of the coordination committee of the international conference on Yugoslavia have spoken in favor of holding urgent consultations between special representatives of Russia, the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union in order to work out a common stance on the Bosnian settlement. They held talks in Moscow today.

Simultaneously, Kozyrev had a telephone conversation with Warren Christopher, suggesting to him that an American representative be sent to these quadrilateral consultations. The U.S. secretary of state has so far neither accepted nor rejected the proposal.

The result of the consultations should be a concrete plan for a postwar structure of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It will then be discussed at a quadrilateral summit and presented to the conflicting sides.

Owen Views Need for Settlement Plan

LD2104055694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0545 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS—The United Nations, Russia, the United States and the European Union [EU] should propose clear goals and a realistic framework for an all-round settlement to the warring sides in the Bosnian conflict. Such a plan can be hammered out in a relatively short period of time, said international mediator, Lord Owen, here on Wednesday [20 April] evening.

He arrived in Moscow on Wednesday together with Thorvald Stoltenberg for talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

According to the co-chairman of the coordination committee on the international conference on Yugoslavia, many Serbs want peace and would be ready to approve a concrete plan as an alternative to war.

The Vance-Owen plan contained appropriate proposals. This document needs some supplements, taking into account agreements on setting up a federation of Bosnian Moslems and Croats and the talks on Serb Krajina in Croatia.

It is necessary to set up a mechanism which would enable representatives from the U.N., the EU, Russia and the U.S. to meet on a confidential basis and to agree positions. Incidentally, they do not differ much.

Owen explains the absence of Washington's immediate reply to the invitation to participate in quadripartite consultations by the attention given by American politicians to the request of U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to continue military pressure on Bosnian Serbs.

Owen said that part of his delegation will remain in Moscow to continue consultations with the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is necessary, the international mediator stressed, that "the four" should meet as soon as possible.

Kozyrev Urges Parties To Coordinate Bosnia Policy

LD2104133994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1327 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has called for Russia, the UN, the European Union, and other parties acting to resolve the crisis in Yugoslavia to coordinate a single stand on Bosnia. He expressed this position in Moscow on Wednesday at the end of his meeting with the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Peace Conference on Former Yugoslavia Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg. As Kozyrev said, "among the Bosnian Serbs there is a party of war, waiting for fresh air strikes to continue the war. It's people from this party who have been shelling hospitals and other civilian targets in Gorazde."

However, in the interests of all the Serbs the war must be stopped on fair terms and the lifting of sanctions should be gradually pressed for, Kozyrev said. These interests of the Serbs and of the other conflicting sides should be given a real chance, he stressed. In his words, at Wednesday's session of Russia's Security Council the Bosnian problem was discussed in the same key and on the basis of the statement made by President Yeltsin on Tuesday. We will do whatever we can to stop the bloodshed in Gorazde, introduce disengagement troops and put an end to the confrontation there. Kozyrev disclosed that in a telephone conversation with the American Secretary of State Warren Christopher he had asked him to send to Moscow the US President's Special Envoy on Former Yugoslavia Charles Redman, whose expertise, as Kozyrev put it, is as essential as that of Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg.

Regrettably, Christopher declined to give a clear-cut answer. So, the door remains open, Kozyrev said.

'Common' Position on Bosnia Sought

LD2104140994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, April 21 (TASS)—"It is time to decide what result the international community wants to see in Yugoslav settlement," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said.

Russia favours a "common and single position of the world community" on this problem, Demurin said. He believes such position should include "clear benchmarks and determination for ensuring the implementation of the adopted decisions," as well as "reflect the will of the international community to meet the rightful interests of all sides involved in the settlement which are moving along the path of peace."

He stressed that "there should be no doubts about the ultimate goal." in his view, it is important for Russia, the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and all other concerned countries to have a "common and clear-cut position." "Seeing the prospects for political settlement and having a clear vision of what the post-war future of the countries that emerged on the territory of the former Yugoslavia should be, one can make decisions on intermediate steps," Demurin said.

He warned, however, that such steps, if taken without clear understanding of the consequences, may be harmful for the settlement process in the former Yugoslavia.

Demurin described as "allegations" statements by today's newspaper IZVESTIYA that the Russian Foreign Ministry's position on the Bosnian crisis has allegedly not been supported by President Boris Yeltsin and is now being reworked.

He stressed that "these allegations are far from the foreign policy and the essence of Russia's foreign policy initiatives." He noted that there are "no disagreements, let alone contradictions" between the president and the Foreign Ministry.

No 'Crack' in U.S.-Russian Relations Over Bosnia

LD2104135094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by A. Dubnov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] At a briefing for journalists in the Kremlin Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, disclosed that the treaty on civic accord would be signed at a ceremony in St. George's Hall on 28 April. The final drafting work was completed yesterday and it was forwarded to the president and State Duma deputies for their attention. Vyacheslav Kostikov said the criticisms and proposals of all factions, including the Communists and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], had been heeded in the treaty. The press secretary said that although President Yeltsin believes that the treaty will succeed, he also realizes that not everybody will support the document.

Vyacheslav Kostikov dwelled on the situation in the Black Sea Fleet. In his words, the Russian president is relying on Leonid Kravchuk's common sense.

Relations with the United States were also touched on at the briefing. During his telephone conversation with Bill Clinton last night, Russian President Boris Yeltsin confirmed that Russia's policies towards the United States remained unchanged. President Yeltsin noted that our states were striving for democracy. In the process Russia was mindful of both sides' interests. Kostikov quoted Boris Nikolayevich as saying that nobody would succeed in driving a wedge between himself and Bill Clinton and rejected claims that a crack had appeared in the Russo-U.S. relationship because of the Bosnian crisis.

Referring to Russia's attitude towards the Balkan situation, the press secretary said that the president regards our country's position as being unchanged. Russia has always objected to air strikes in Bosnia and we are continuing our attempts to persuade Serbia to cease fire and hold consultations with all interested parties.

Churkin Defends Stance on Bosnia

LD2004191494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1625 GMT 20 Apr 94

["Exclusive" interview with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin by program announcer Nikolay Svanidze on 20 April; place not given; from the "Details" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Svanidze] Today, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin gave an exclusive interview for the "Details" program.

You sensationally changed your position in relation to this situation. This happened literally yesterday, as far as I understand it, right? You gave this statement yesterday. What led you to do this, what did the Serbs do to make you believe that they are deceiving Russia, and that it is now difficult to continue talks with them?

[Churkin] But I have not changed my position. I believe that I did what was necessary, proceeding from the position that I have been following over practically the last two years. My position was a very simple one. That is that the great Russia—so long as the Serbs ask for it—can truly help the Serbs if they travel the path toward peace. We will help to point out that path to them. But if they travel a different path then they cannot expect the great Russia to help them.

But I was forced to make this statement, and I made it quite consciously, although in some comments now, especially in Serbia, they are saying it was an emotional one and that Churkin was speaking out, and so on. I was there for nine days and I received the quite distinct feeling that the Serbs are on the brink of a catastrophe, and not only the Bosnian Serbs, but all the Serbs. First and foremost, they will themselves end up in a catastrophic situation, and the whole of the rest of the world would be pushed into very grave events. Of course, I did not reckon that this statement would lead to some kind of turning point in policy, but still, I hope that for many Serbs this statement would make them think carefully, and, apart from that, in the practical sense, I felt that something had begun to move there.

[Svanidze] Who made you promises and broke them? Who, in your opinion, deceived you? You have in mind Radovan Karadzic?

[Churkin] Well, today I would not really want to name names, but I had the main conversations with Karadzic, although a totally dramatic situation developed on that day when the plane was shot down, and a massive bombardment, as it were, and great difficulties were threatened, and the election campaign was going on there somewhere, and I was, literally, as it were, trying to get a decision from anyone. I rang President Milosevic and talked to other Bosnian Serb leaders. There was even one moment when, in a telephone conversation with President Milosevic, I cried out in amazement: What, am I supposed to proclaim myself president of the Republic of Serbia so as to make a decision, as it were, on the issue?

[Svanidze] Vitaliy Ivanovich, you have a reputation with the country's leadership—and with the president particularly—for being an expert on the region. What steps do you recommend? Are you recommending that our policy in the region should be radically altered?

[Churkin] No. I set out from the position that we would continue to follow the policy of Russia as a great power.

[Svanidze] All the same, we have been openly supporting the Serbs. What is going to happen now?

[Churkin] I do not agree with that view. Russia was a communications channel for the Serbian side. When the Serbs were saying that the world community did not understand them, and relations between the Serbs and the world community really were complicated, Russia tried to use its unique communications channel, operating in conjunction with other members of the world community. At the same time, since we were taking an objective, balanced approach, we did not only maintain contact with them. Nearly every time I was in Sarajevo I met the Muslim and Croatian leaderships, as well as the Bosnian leadership. We will continue to take the view that if the Serbs find the strength to turn to peace, then Russia will go on playing its part, but if they do not, if this drama goes on and a small group of people, God forbid, manages to drag the Serbian people into disaster, then Russia must not...[pauses] The tail should not be wagging the dog. It is really quite simple. Then we have our own interests and our own positions, too.

[Svanidze] If I have understood correctly, then, you are not recommending that we give up on peacemaking efforts in Yugoslavia.

[Churkin] Of course not, of course not. I think that it is very important now for us to get out of the crisis in Gorazde. The situation there is like this: The Serbs have only to make one false move in Gorazde or anywhere else on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the thing I have been warning them against will break out. So my conscience is clear. But events may take a different course. I do, in spite of everything, hope that we will manage to settle the Gorazde problem, and then the political efforts will definitely be resumed. We are actively involved with other countries on this.

[Svanidze] But if everything does, for all that, follow the scenario that you have outlined—in other words—if the Serbs do not change their position, and that leads to the result that you have spoken about—a tough result—what will Russia's reaction be? Or is that too hypothetical?

[Churkin] The question really is too hypothetical because there are different degrees of toughness.

[Svanidze] As a politician, you have scored a lot of points in recent months inside the country—among the soft and the hard opposition, particularly. Even Zhirinovskiy has left you alone, apparently saying that this is because you are just about the only minister not to sell yourself to world Zionism. Well, now you have changed your position by making such an important statement. Are you not afraid that the credit you have gained will now be lost?

[Churkin] Well, I do not take account of credit. I do not see myself as a politician. I have absolutely no political or other ambitions. One thing concerns me: My personal worthiness as a professional and as a person. On the whole, I have had to make decisions two or three times in Yugoslavian affairs that were very difficult. But I always hold that if I get into such a situation, I must make the decision that I believe is needed. Otherwise, why bother?

Let someone else do it—if I am not capable of making serious decisions. So that is the way I work. [passage omitted]

[Svanidze] But tomorrow morning, President Yeltsin will find a modest, four-page printed note written by Vitaliy Churkin and approved by Andrey Kozyrev on his desk. It will lay out various possible developments of events in Bosnia and it will give certain political recommendations. The president will have to make a critical decision. [passage omitted]

Churkin, Kozyrev Statements on Bosnia Contrasted

PM2004140594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 7

[Yevgeniy Fadeyev report under the "'New World Order' in Action" rubric: "Whose Side Is Russia On?"]

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Apr—Russian diplomacy has once again demonstrated the marvels of its unusual activity. A couple of hours after the statement on the situation in Bosnia by A. Kozyrev, the boss, and on the fact that he is an optimist, a directly opposite statement followed from his loyal deputy, V. Churkin.

The president's special emissary, who had recently become a real favorite of Belgrade (what a defender of the Serbs!), quite unexpectedly condemned the Serb side in Bosnia harshly and discourteously. Moreover, he announced that the time had come for Russia to end all discussions with the Bosnian Serbs. According to him, they are using the Russian policy as a screen for their own purposes, and they must understand that Russia is a great state, not a banana republic. And so on, and so forth. Here there are differences with his ideological leader—not in nuances but on a whole number of fundamental positions. What is this? Does the right hand not know what the left hand is doing? The outraged self-esteem of the emissary, who did not achieve success in his latest shuttle trip to the former Yugoslavia? Or is it a hitherto unknown theatrical presentation for an estimable public? In actual fact, everything had evidently been rehearsed and staged in advance. First Kozyrev's nighttime peacemaking visit to Belgrade for a positive check mark in the Russian Duma's register. Then....

"Several questions arise," today's VECERNJE NOVOSTI writes. "Will Kozyrev wish to 'cool down' his deputy to some extent? Were Churkin's words fulfilling the function of pressuring the Serb side? Maybe this is an announcement of future exacerbation with the Serbs?"

In general, the recent moves by Moscow diplomacy create a strange impression, to put it mildly. Somehow a doubt involuntarily steals in: Is the opinion, widely publicized by Moscow, that Russia has returned to the Balkans correct? One more thing—this is from a headline in POLITIKA: "Whose side is Russia on?"

Grachev Criticizes Churkin for Blaming Only Serbs

MK2104111094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the general heading "Bosnian Crisis as a Pretext for Staff Intrigues:" "Grachev Thinks it is Not Deputy Ministers Who Should Hold Talks on Peace in Bosnia"]

[Text] "I do not quite agree with Vitaliy Churkin; it would not be correct to accuse the Bosnian Serbs alone of violating the truce and delivering strikes," Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said, answering a question by your SEGODNYA correspondent following the signing of an agreement with Turkey on military and technical cooperation. "The situation in the Gorazde area is complicated—both sides are to blame." He also said that on 17 and 18 April he spoke on the phone with General Radko Mladic, the Serb commander in chief in Bosnia, and asked him "not to attack Gorazde." According to Gen. Grachev, the Serb forces did not attack Gorazde "for those two days." But afterward "provocative actions by the other side followed."

Gen. Grachev said that "air strikes are very dangerous politically and they do not produce any military results. It is necessary to sit down at the negotiating table—not for the officials who are currently holding the talks at the level of deputy foreign ministers, but at the level of heads of state and government."

Russia is not going to send extra troop contingents to Bosnia, because, according to Pavel Grachev, "an extra battalion will not make any difference; what is needed is up to 70,000 soldiers, but this is unrealistic." But Moscow does not currently plan to withdraw its peacemakers, either.

Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan, on his part, said that his country is ready to send troops to Bosnia.

Churkin Seen as Victim of 'Inner Apparatus Intrigue'

MK2104101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Abarinov report in the "Power" column: "The Bosnian Crisis as a Cause for Apparatus Intrigue. The Security Council Has Resolved To Continue Negotiations With the Serbs"]

[Text] The subject of a Bosnian settlement has suddenly taken on a scandalous turn. As SEGODNYA reported earlier, the day before yesterday the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry prepared the text of a presidential statement, but the final text that emerged from the Kremlin office that day was a strongly watered-down version. It is not ruled out that this is a totally different text. At the same time, a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied "reports by some mass media outlets" about differences between Andrey Kozyrev and Vitaliy

Churkin on the Bosnian problem. This statement is more than suspicious: At least we are not aware of any such reports. Yesterday morning a new denial followed, this time by Air Force Commander Yevgeniy Podkolzin. The general described as "speculation" reports that the Russian battalion can be withdrawn from Sarajevo. During the whole day there was a solid flow of denials and similar statements via various communications channels. Toward evening the presidential press service circulated a report about a session of the Russian Federation Security Council. The text says that the session, "in addition to the planned agenda," considered the "situation in Bosnia and the tragedy in Gorazde." It resolved: There is no tragedy. This is our comment on the phrase: "The possibility of a peace agreement on settling the conflict remains real."

Judging by a number of signs, what is now happening Moscow is not just an attempt to prevent a large-scale use of force in Bosnia, but an inner apparatus intrigue whose victim could become the president's special envoy, Vitaliy Churkin.

Churkin Urged To Go On Despite 'Disillusionment'

PM2004121994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Stanislav Kondrashov article: "Who Got Suckered in Gorazde and How"]

[Text] This time the contrast between what was said and what happened was striking. On his return from a lightning visit to Belgrade, Andrey Kozyrev informed journalists actually at Vnukovo Airport itself of the success—an accord relieving the situation in Gorazde and, furthermore, in other Bosnian trouble spots as well. However, fresh reports almost immediately indicated the failure of his mission—Bosnian Serb tanks were entering the suburbs of Gorazde, panic-stricken Muslim inhabitants were seeking refuge in the quarters of UN representatives, and among the dismayed UN and NATO leadership the question of continuing the bombing, which had provoked sharp protests from Russia and Kozyrev's visit, was raised with even greater urgency.

Last week was a week of Russian recriminations against those who until recently were regarded as lifelong partners, a week of large-scale demonstrations of great-power attitudes, if the pathetic assurances of the powers-that-be that Russia was, is, and will remain a great power can be understood as such. The declarations achieved unprecedented unity among all branches of power as far as present times are concerned.

I would remind you that the week began on Monday, when Boris Yeltsin communicated to Bill Clinton by telephone his undisguised irritation that no effort had been made to consult the great power before the first NATO bombing strikes on Serbian positions near Gorazde. The week ended on Sunday, when Andrey Kozyrev, after emergency meetings at night with Serbian leaders, informed the Russians that the china broken by the Americans and other NATO members was being successfully glued back together.

What then happened? On the first morning of the new week, with Serbian tanks in Gorazde, Vitaliy Churkin, Kozyrev's deputy and Yeltsin's representative, complained on the BBC that he could not remember so many broken accords as in recent days. The treachery of his Serbian interlocutors, like the specific "forgetfulness" of the U.S. and UN leadership prior to the bombing strikes, unfortunately indicate the same thing, namely that Russia's status as a great power is being called into question—by action rather than by words.

And Russia's status has to be established by action rather than self-consoling words. And great powers' action means, in particular, a considered, consistent policy where ostentatious gestures to the public are accorded a more modest place than painstaking work, where flexibility is combined with toughness, and where politics—as the "art of the possible"—seeks to achieve the impossible, compensating for a temporary, let us hope, lack of authority and strength.

Former Yugoslavia has become a test bed for the practical search for such a policy. I, among others, was glad two months ago when Russia acquired its own identity—and diplomatic niche—in Sarajevo when it prevented through its timely and successful intervention planned bombing strikes on Serbian positions. In the very complex Bosnian situation this gain might have been said to be just for the moment, but it was consolidated by the efforts of Vitaliy Churkin, who himself deservedly acquired the reputation of being the prime peacemaker in that troubled region.

Has this identity—and the niche—now been lost in Gorazde? I don't think so, as the need for Russia's unique mediation remains. But if it has been lost, then it has been lost to no greater extent than that of the Americans and the leadership of the United Nations headed by Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, which is under the dominant influence of the West.

After what happened they were faced with a tough choice, a choice made more difficult by the logic of their behavior: Bombing "until victory," which could produce growing political and moral complications, or backing down, which means not only recognizing the failure of a strong, one-sided approach but the victory of the Serbian extremists. President Clinton would like to pursue America's manifestly anti-Serbian policy under the UN flag by means of NATO, within which not just American combat planes are employed. The ideal would be, they now think in Washington, to pursue U.S. global policy in general through the United Nations, with minimum costs in terms of dollars and potential U.S. casualties. Apart from anything else, the United States needs the UN smokescreen, according to commentator Jim

Hoagland, to "reduce Boris Yeltsin's internal problems and get Russia to give Serbia a nudge under the negotiating table with its foot."

The civil war raging on the ruins of Yugoslavia is not the best test range for the present United Nations to rehearse its expanding peacemaking operations on. Unfortunately, Russia, by automatically voting in the West's wake during the early stages of development of the Yugoslav tragedy, helped the United Nations get more and more deeply involved and more and more bogged down there. Indignant or otherwise, the mandate for NATO bombing on behalf of the United Nations was sanctioned earlier by Russia's vote too.

Despite all the latest great-power recriminations, Moscow's task is not to recreate the former bipolar world of rivalry within the United Nations—that has disappeared irrevocably into the past—"if only" because neither the forces nor the allies to resolve this task are available. Nor does the task consist in being at the beck and call of the United Nations and the West, pulling the chestnuts out of the fire or sticking together the broken pieces as the pottery is smashed in the Yugoslav china shop where more than one bull is currently on the rampage.

Our own Russian niche means our own voice at UN headquarters in New York insisting on a modification of the current dead-end approaches. And the continuation and strengthening of Churkin's activity "on the scene," despite his growing weariness and perfectly understandable disillusionment.

Blessed are the peacemakers who toil unstintingly.

Yeltsin Statement Reveals Changed Stance on Bosnia

PM2004182394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "President Yeltsin Presents Ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs"]

[Text] The change in Russia's stance on the Bosnian crisis, which emerged after the Serbs violated the commitments they had given to Moscow and mounted the determined storming of the Muslim enclave of Gorazde, has been confirmed in a special statement by Boris Yeltsin.

The Russian president has demanded that the Bosnian Serbs immediately withdraw their forces from the besieged city, allow the peacemaking forces to enter, and lift the blockade on the UN personnel. Yeltsin confirmed his proposal to hold a meeting of the leaders of Russia, the United States, France, and Britain to elaborate a common position.

Moscow has put forward such an initiative in the past but the West responded coolly to it. This time the reaction was different—the Europeans welcomed Yeltsin's proposal and U.S. President Bill Clinton called it "worthy of serious discussion."

A few hours after the Russian president's statement the Bosnian Serbs agreed to release the captured UN peacemakers and allow the blue helmets to enter Gorazde—but only on the left bank of the Drina River. As for the right bank, which had been captured by the Serbs during recent fighting, they have no intention of leaving there, as Radovan Karadzic has unambiguously stated. Meanwhile, Yeltsin has demanded the withdrawal of Serb forces from all Gorazde's territory without dividing it into right and left banks.

The Russian authorities dedicated the morning of 20 April to the elaboration of a clear and coordinated position on Bosnia. According to information from reliable sources on Smolensk Square, there are serious differences of opinion in the president's entourage. Not everyone agrees with the Foreign Ministry's position, which considers further contacts with the Bosnian Serb leadership pointless.

It is understood that it was largely due to the efforts of the "pro-Serb lobby" that the original text of Yeltsin's statement, prepared by the Foreign Ministry and couched in extremely harsh tones, was ultimately changed. The reference to aggression and genocide by the Serbs disappeared, as did the assertion that "compulsion to peace" (for which read: military measures) is the only way of rectfiying the situation. Even in its final form, however, the document leaves no doubt about the direction in which the Russian approach is evolving.

Even the State Duma, which is well known for its virtually unconditional support for the Serbs, showed restraint this time and did not adopt a resolution on the results of the morning session dedicated to the situation in the Balkans. In order to clarify the situation it was decided to send a delegation to Belgrade consisting of the leaders of various parliamentary factions.

The announcement of the recall of the Russian ambassador in Belgrade for consultations, which appeared in the press, has not been confirmed. "No decision has been made on that score," a high-ranking Russian diplomat said. And he added, highly significantly: "Yet."

The Foreign Ministry pins the main hopes for a way out of the Bosnian deadlock on the holding of the summit meeting proposed by Yeltsin. "The permanent members of the UN Security Council must present a united front," Galina Sidorova, Kozyrev's political adviser, believes. "It is necessary to elaborate a joint position and implement it resolutely. It is time to review the concept of 'special interests' and 'special influence,' in Russia's case on the Serbs, in the U.S. case on the Muslims,, in Germany's case on the Croats, and so on.... As practice has shown, each of the warring sides has tried to prove to its theoretical allies that it is right and enlist their full support. As a result, differences of opinion have surfaced between the great powers, the united front was splitting up, but meanwhile the war went on."

Bosnia Used in 'Domestic Political Games'

LD2004192994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Bosnian Serbs are carrying out unthinkable deeds in Gorazde, a high-ranking official from the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax today.

"Even brothels have their own rules. However, Bosnian Serbs do not recognize them and are "raping" the poor Gorazde in the eyes of the whole world," the diplomat said.

According to him, the preparedness of many Russian parliamentarians to defend Bosnian Serbs only proves that they are using the Bosnian crisis as a trump card in their domestic political games. "Russian parliamentarians state they are ready to wage a war in Bosnia until the death of the last Serb. However, this does not make them differ from Serbs who are ready to fight until the death of the last Russian," the diplomat suggested.

Duma Deputy Speaker Calls for Russian-Serb Union

LD2004214694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, deputy chairman of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, has called for a military and political union of Russia and Serbia and for Russia to play a more active role in the former Yugoslavia.

"It is not NATO or the United Nations that should dictate their terms to the Serbs but Russia that must determine the policy there," said Vengerovskiy, who is one of the leaders of extreme nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party.

At a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday, Vengerovskiy criticized the Duma's decision to suspend debates on the situation in ex-Yugoslavia until the return of a Duma delegation due to leave for the war-torn country on Thursday. The Duma is trying "to get off easy by setting up another commission, which would engage in political tourism.

Commenting on his recent trip to Pyongyang, Vengerovskiy said relations between Russia and North Korea are today at a "zero" level. Asked whether he discussed the issue of the North Korea's nuclear facilities during his visit, he said that, when he asked whether Pyongyang had an atom bomb, his hosts replied, "We don't know."

Belgrade Officials Deny Russian Envoy Recalled

LD2004174794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Apr—High-ranking diplomats at the Russian Embassy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY] have denied reports by some of the mass media that Gennadiy Shikin, the Russian ambassador to the FRY is being recalled to Moscow for consultations.

In a conversation today with the ITAR-TASS correspondent they stated that they know nothing about such plans. What is more, they say, the present difficult period requires a redoubling and not a weakening of efforts to achieve a settlement of the Bosnian crisis. Nor would a reduction of the level of diplomatic representation in Yugoslavia be appropriate, since the Belgrade leadership is making great efforts to localize the conflict around Gorazde and is urging the Bosnian Serb leadership to take constructive steps directed at halting the bloodshed in the town.

Serbs Inflict 'Serious Defeat' on Russian Diplomacy

PM2004142394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Maksim Iosin report: "Serbs Inflict Cruel Blow on Russian Diplomacy's Prestige"]

[Text] The continuation of the Serbian offensive against the Muslim enclave of Gorazde, which is expected to fall at any moment, is the most serious defeat for Russian diplomacy in recent times and leaves few hopes for a peaceful settlement of the Bosnian crisis. The efforts of Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy Vitaliy Churkin, who tried to persuade the Serbs not to enter into confrontation with the world community and to end the siege of the city, declared a "safe area" by the United Nations, have proved to be in vain.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic have not fulfilled a single one of the promises which they lavished on Russian diplomats. And now it is too late to discover whether Belgrade deliberately misled Kozyrev and Churkin, or whether the political leadership have lost control of the Bosnian Serb troops, which now obey only General Ratko Mladic, dubbed in Russian diplomatic circles "the Serbian Makashov" [general prominent in October coup attempt].

Addressing journalists on his return from Bosnia, Vitaliy Churkin looked extremely disappointed. Never before have such hardline words against the Serbs been heard from his lips. He called on the Russian authorities to break off all contacts with the Bosnian Serbs, who, in his words, were using Moscow's intercession as a cover, and were simply stalling for time: "The Bosnian Serbs should understand that in Russia they are dealing with a great power, and not a banana republic. Russia must decide whether to allow a group of extremists to exploit the policy of a great country to achieve their goals. Our answer is unequivocal—'Never.'"

"If the Bosnian Serbs fire just one more salvo against Gorazde, a huge crisis will erupt which will plunge the

Serbian people into catastrophe," Churkin warned, intimating that in the prevailing situation there can be no question of lifting international sanctions against Yugoslavia.

And although on Tuesday morning Anatoliy Krasikov, leader of President Yeltsin's press service, tried to soften the impact of Churkin's words, calling his assessment "a personal view," it is hard to imagine that recent events will have no influence whatever on the policy of Russian diplomacy in the Balkans. Damage has been inflicted on the prestige not only of Churkin and Kozyrev, but on that of Yeltsin himself: The world has seen that even the Serbs—"our historical allies and brothers in the faith"—have disregard Moscow's opinion.

Hopes for a peaceful settlement to the Bosnian crisis remain very limited. UN General Secretary Butrus-Ghali has requested that NATO use its aircraft to defend the Muslim enclaves in Bosnia, and U.S. President Bill Clinton held a conference with his advisers 19 April, examining the possibilities of a military operation against the Serbs. And although Yuliy Vorontsov, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, again opposed air strikes without prior consultations in the Security Council, no one supported Moscow.

There is a growing conviction in the West that, now that the Bosnian Serbs have demonstrated how easily they break their commitments, it is hardly possible to bank on dialogue with them.

The easing of sanctions against Belgrade, which only recently seemed entirely realistic, is postponed indefinitely: Where are the guarantees that, as soon as sanctions are lifted, the Serbian authorities will not return to their previous policy? In that case the international community would be left powerless. In order to punish Yugoslavia again, Russia's support is essential, which can practically be ruled out in view of the changes which have occurred in our political life in the past year.

Contradictory reports are coming from the region of Gorazde. According to the testimony of UN and International Red Cross spokesmen, the city is "effectively taken." If news agencies are to be believed, Gorazde's death throes are continuing; the Serbs are subjecting the enclave to mass bombardment, but have not yet established control over it.

If the reports that the city has not yet been taken are confirmed, in the opinion of IZVESTIYA's interlocutors in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in that case, the Serbs still have a last chance to avoid a NATO air strike and at least partially recover Moscow's trust—by calling an immediate cease-fire and withdrawing their troops from the besieged city.

If this does not happen, all the signs suggest that Russia will in no way be able to help either Radovan Karadzic or his soldiers...

Collapse of 'Strong-Arm Peacemaking' Seen in Bosnia

PM2004141694 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 7

[Reports by Aleksandr Stepanov in Berlin and Vladimir Peresada in Brussels under the "'New World Order' in Action" rubric: "Collapse of 'Strong-Arm Peacemaking.' Will the United Nations and NATO Be Able To Draw the Proper Conclusions?"]

[Text] Berlin, 19 April—The latest bloody impasse into which the resolution of the Bosnian problem has been driven has arisen thanks to military interference by NATO. This attests that, by following the gradual and quite irresponsible decisions of politicians, it is possible to achieve only a dramatic escalation of the stand-off.

In point of fact, FRG Foreign Minister K. Kinkel agreed with this assessment at a meeting with his colleagues from the European Union member countries. Of course, his judgments were far more diplomatic, and he still considers military interference justified—how could it be otherwise?—but even the head of German diplomacy has been forced to acknowledge the obvious: "This has not produced the desired results." This, in fact, could easily have been ascertained in advance from Russian diplomats, for example, who know both the state of affairs on the spot and the Serbs' national character. But no, instead they preferred to organize a public airshow.

Now Kinkel is appealing to Russia, asking it to use all its influence to induce the Serbs to pull back their troops from Gorazde. Appealing to that very Russia which there was "insufficient time" to warn of the air strike against the Bosnian Serbs' positions. The microscopic military effect turned into a crushing blow against the months-long peacemaking efforts of Russian diplomacy, which also has to its obvious credit its highly successful participation in lifting the siege of Sarajevo.

What has happened in Gorazde demonstrates very graphically the impotence of the United Nations and NATO and, most importantly, the total lack of any ideas whatever about how the Balkan problem should be resolved. Of course, it is far simpler to down aircraft and shoot up tanks from the air than to display a consistent will to peacefully achieve the set goal. But where is this goal? It long ago vanished beneath mounds of verbiage....

Brussels, 19 April—Did the NATO raids produce what was expected—at least the psychological capitulation of the "target" in the face of the alliance's show of military might or, most importantly, hope of a move toward a political settlement dictated by this might? No, something else happened. NATO's military interference has led only to a radicalization of the belligerents' positions, as well as jeopardizing the contingents of UN forces in Bosnia, whom the embittered Bosnian Serbs are already calling "participants in the conflict" and who, accordingly, are increasingly frequently becoming the object of countermeasures which the West calls "repressive."

What now? To judge from available information, NATO's Brussels headquarters still proceeds, in principle, from the decisions adopted earlier. Namely, to carry out new raids if a request is received from the command of the UN Bosnian forces—a request sanctioned by A. Akashi, the UN secretary general's special representative. But the internal situation within this "company" no longer appears as definite and clear as it did just at the end of last week. The events of the weekend, which showed the futility of the "strong-arm peacemaking method" in Bosnia, presented both the United Nations and NATO with a dilemma: to step up pressure or abandon it altogether?

NATO headquarters has not yet reacted officially to this dilemma, which Akashi recently formulated as a need to make a choice between sharply increasing the size of the UN contingents in Bosnia and withdrawing them, but on the other hand there is lively press comment on this topic. Diverse opinions are being heard, but probably never before have views which cast doubt on the present "peacemaking policy" as a whole been expressed so frankly and in such a generalized form in the newspapers. The newspaper LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, for example, writes that the losses borne by a number of Western countries in the course of expeditions under UN auspices make peacekeeping operations unpopular, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for some governments to continue this "humanitarian" policy.

But what is the alternative? In the opinion of practically all commentators, only the talks process can work. Mindful of the fact that it is constantly malfunctioning, however, LA LIBRE BELGIQUE expresses another noteworthy thought: Why not use, in the interests of a settlement, an additional trump card such as...the lifting of the embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia?

You probably could not invent a better epitaph for "strong-arm peacemaking."

Plan To Expand UN Peacekeeping Forces Noted

PM2004115194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 7

[Sergey Ivanov report: "Somalia and Bosnia Not on Offer. United Nations Forms Additional Contingent of 'Blue Helmets'"]

[Text] An interesting progression. Whereas in 1987 peacekeeping operations were carried out by UN forces in five areas of the planet and the number of "Blue Helmets" was then 10,000 soldiers and officers, today 70,000 UN troops are insufficient to pacify the warring sides in 17 hotbeds of tension.

Fifteen countries prepared to put at least another 50,000 soldiers under arms have responded to the world community's call to increase the ranks of the peacekeeping forces.

In January of this year UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali authorized the French Colonel Gerard Gobyez [surname as transliterated] to poll the 184 UN members on the subject of their readiness to facilitate the imposition of order in the world. The Gobyez team flew to 50 world countries and entered into correspondence with the remainder. Fifteen countries declared their readiness—the participants in the new project. The list of these countries is being kept secret until the UN mobilization plan is established. It is clear only that they do not include the United States.

There is no noticeable shortage of countries ready to act as donors of military force. However, there are only two states in the world capable today of realistically carrying this project through. Russia and the United States are the two countries which possess the necessary means to deliver "Blue Helmets" to trouble spots quickly. The UN troops need heavy transport planes, special naval vessels, and the appropriate medical aid, equipment, means of communication, and satellite links.

Russia's participation in this program is also under question, but, experts claim, this idea must be seized with both hands. The Russian soldier, having overstayed his welcome in the former fraternal republics, will be happy to see the world. Especially since, in addition to additional training, extra pay is also promised. And the operations plans will include only classical functions: the separation of warring parties on the basis of agreement, as is done in countries like Cambodia and Macedonia [FYROM]. Somalia and Bosnia will not be on offer.

Security Council Discusses Caucasus, Bosnia

LD2004135694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—The Russian Security Council discussed on Wednesday Russia's policy in the Caucasus and the implementation of previous decisions calling for support for Russian Cossacks, the presidential press service said.

Participants in the meeting which was chaired by President Boris Yeltsin stressed that Russia's policy in the Caucasus should aim at expanding mutually beneficial cooperation with all countries of the region, promoting their social and economic development, reaching civic accord and restoring stability in the region.

On the question of state support for Cossacks, the council called for working out as soon as possible a federal programme for their support. At present, the implementation of decisions in this sphere is being hindered by the passivity of federal and local bodies of power, lack of coordination and ineffective legislation.

Yeltsin urged the government, concerned ministries and departments to take practical measures to work out and realise Russia's policy in the Caucasus and provide state support for Russian Cossacks.

The press service said that the council also discussed the situation in Bosnia and Gorazde. Its members expressed the hope that there is still a possibility of resolving the crisis by peaceful means.

Central European Leaders Criticize NATO Ties

PM2104082594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 7

[Correspondent Zdenek Horeni report: "Seven Presidents on Russia"]

[Text] Prague, 19 Apr—Seven presidents of central European countries have advocated cooperation with Russia, but they also criticized Russia's desire to achieve special status for itself within the American Partnership for Peace program.

The seven heads of state met at the end of last week in the Czech city of Litomysl (roughly 100 km east of Prague) to discuss in an informal setting topical questions concerning their region, relations with Russia, and the situation in the Balkans. The initiator of the meeting was [Czech President] Vaclav Havel; the presidents of Austria, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia also took part. During a television discussion held at the end of the meeting the Czech president noted that "peace in Europe and the world as a whole is impossible without normal partnership relations between the West and Russia." At the same Russia was warned against trying to turn central Europe into its zone of influence.

The presidents of the Czech Republic and Germany reacted most sharply to the well-known Russian objections to the possible shift of NATO's eastern borders toward the CIS borders. The former stated that the period when the Soviet Union dictated to the socialist countries what they were allowed to join and what not, was over." The latter stressed that cooperation with Russia should rule out any desire on its part to "impose its diktat upon us."

The participants in the meeting in Litomysl stated that they are not seeking to create any kind of pact, although... Although they did clearly exhibit one tendency—an anti-Russian tendency. The presidents of the seven countries of Central Europe did not adopt any documents at Litomysl.

The meetings of the Central European "G-7" will be continued. Hungary, in 1995, will be the next host.

Proposal Forwarded on Division of Black Sea Fleet

LD2004203594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Russia will put forward a new proposal on division of the Black Sea Fleet in accordance with which the strategic ships (anti-submarine ships and warships) will belong to Russia and the tactical ships (the patrol ones and minesweepers) to Ukraine. This was announced to Interfax by reliable sources in the Black Sea Fleet headquarters.

The same sources said the talks between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy in Sevastopol planned for Thursday would focus on division of the Black Sea Fleet.

Yeltsin To Visit Ukraine When Treaty Ready

MK2004111094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "NEGA reports" column]

[Text] Within 10 days Ukrainian and Russian delegations are to submit to their heads of state a draft agreement on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. At a news conference in Kiev, Leonid Kravchuk confirmed that he has invited Boris Yeltsin to come to Ukraine on an official visit. This visit will take place after a large-scale treaty on friendship and cooperation has been prepared. The next round of negotiations on the division of the Black Sea Fleet is scheduled for 22 April in Moscow. Admiral (Ret.) Aleksey Kalinin, former Black Sea Fleet commander, expressed his discontent with the agreements reached in Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet problem. He stated that none of the decisions made in Moscow will satisfy the Black Sea Fleet servicemen: "People will relate to it negatively because the presidents treat the fleet not an instrument to protect the people's interests but as an instrument in political games."

Yeltsin Hopes For Russian-Ukraine Military Agreement

LD2104101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0943 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Apr—Boris Yeltsin hopes the Russian and Ukrainian military will be able to agree, Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian Federation president's press secretary told a Kremlin briefing today.

He said "Defense Minister Grachev, now in Sevastopol, will be able to find a common language with the Ukrainian military and common sense will prevail."

Vyacheslav Kostikov also noted that Boris Yeltsin's view concerning the Black Sea fleet could be described as cautious and moderate optimism.

Commenting on a KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA article on the possibility of war between Ukraine and Russia, the president's press secretary said he has been in touch with the "relevant sources and received information that everything said in the article is "either outright lies, or deliberately distorted facts." [quotation marks as received]

Difficulties in Splitting Black Sea Fleet Predicted

MK2104132094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "How Is the Black Sea Fleet To Be Divided?"]

[Text] Will the Agreement on the Phased Settlement of Black Sea Fleet Problems give a boost to cooperation or will it undermine relations between Russia and Ukraine?

The 10-day period provided for in the Agreement on the Phased Settlement of Black Sea Fleet Problems, which was signed 15 April, is expiring implacably, but there is still no mechanism of splitting the fleet in new proportions. Ukraine, however, continues to interpret unilaterally the document approved at the highest level, something that does not contribute to the attainment of accord. For instance, Ukrainian sailors and politicians have put forward an idea of setting up an Ukrainian naval base in Sevastopol so as to start talks on leasing it to Russia afterward. Given the agreement that the Black Sea Fleet and Ukrainian Navy ships will be based separately, the Black Sea Fleet will effectively lose for some time, if not forever, its main base. At the same time, in Sevastopol, local residents and the city administration stand for handing all Black Sea Fleet units and formations deployed in Crimea over to Russia and for Russian jurisdiction over the fleet's main base.

To all appearances, difficulties are also bound to emerge when specific shares of the two sides are calculated. First, because 15-20 percent of Black Sea Fleet ships are by no means a specific value. Second, Ukraine is not going to take into account in the negotiating process the part of the fleet it has already seized unilaterally, including a number of Black Sea Fleet ships and facilities. Despite the appeal by Vice Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovaynyy, commander of the Ukrainian Navy, to refrain during the expert talks from the "Ukrainization" of Black Sea Fleet units, pressure on Black Sea Fleet sailors in garrisons far-flung from Sevastopol continues with no sign of letup. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry, for instance, plans to set up a Ukrainian Navy Water Area Protection brigade on the basis of an Izmail-based brigade of small naval combatants as early as by 1 June.

Radetskyy Seen Defying Black Sea Fleet Pact

PM2004144394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Vladimir Kuznechevskiy article: "Bone of Contention. Who Is Keen To See Russian-Ukrainian Relations Balkanized"]

[Text] Following the meeting of CIS heads of state 15 April, the presidents of Russia and Ukraine were able yet again and for the umpteenth time to reach agreement on settling the conflict over the Black Sea Fleet. Leonid Kravchuk informed journalists that it had been decided to divide the fleet up in the ratio 15:85 in Russia's favor. However, on 16 April it became clear that this agreement would be very hard to implement.

As Ukrainian Defense Minister General Radetskyy explained to the mass media in Moscow, the correct formula was not the one approved by the countries' two presidents but a quite different one indeed: The fleet is to be divided in the ratio 50:50. Of the 50 percent allocated to Russia, 15 percent is to remain Ukrainian property which Ukraine is subsequently prepared to sell to Russia. The defense minister also explained Leonid Kravchuk's remark about Russia's henceforth getting the chance to use Sevastopol as a naval base, but on a lease basis. During his talks with Pavel Grachev, Radetskyy proposed basing the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet at two other naval bases in Crimea rather than Sevastopol.

Such a radical rereading of this heated issue raises doubt about whether the fleet will finally be divided up in the next 10 days as Leonid Kravchuk has promised and whether the problem will then cease to be a bone of contention between Russia and Ukraine.

Some people and some forces in Ukraine are evidently very keen not only to see the Black Sea Fleet issue remain on the agenda of relations between our two countries, but also to see these relations permanently deteriorate if need be. In fact, on at least four occasions already (at Yalta, Mukhalatka, Massandra, and Zavidovo) the two countries' presidents have reached a final agreement on resolving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. And every single time people and forces in the Ukrainian Supreme Council, Ministry of Defense, and state and political structures have started to whip up the problem of Ukraine's national independence, and using this obfuscation they conceal the agreements that have been reached or reject them out of hand, not even balking at the prospect of placing general relations between our two countries on the brink of military conflict.

All the indications are that for some time now these forces have ascribed no importance whatsoever to their president's signature on agreements which would lead to an improvement in relations between the two largest Slav states. And these forces, apparently, have nothing except their desire for power. But in order to keep themselves afloat, they are extolling the notorious bugbear of nationalism. And this argument still works. There are people who are still prepared to believe that all Ukraine's misfortunes can be blamed on their northern neighbor. And people whose own interests are extremely far removed from Ukraine's genuine interests are shamelessly striving to reap political dividends on the basis of this enduring faith.

Unfortunately, there is still a possibility that Russian-Ukrainian relations will become Balkanized. Therefore we can only see one way of ensuring that relations between our two fraternal states do not turn into extreme forms of confrontation, namely restraint and a calm reaction to the outbursts of the nationalists, who have donned the garb of defenders of genuine Ukrainian

national interests. On a historical scale, time is on the side of the restoration of close economic, cultural, and political ties between our peoples.

Crimean Tatars Allegedly Receive Arms From Chechnya

MK2004094094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Kartashkov report: "Bosnia Is Only a Picnic... Why Do the Crimean Tatars Need Chechen Arms?"]

[Text] A few days ago chiefs of Russia's various special services, foreign and internal affairs ministers, and senior staffers of the presidential administration received a fact sheet saying that "certain groups in Chechnya have organized the illegal delivery of small and other arms designed for the Crimean Tatars living on the peninsula. The weapons are allegedly to be used to carry out provocations during the "all-people's poll" in Crimea, particularly, in order to prod the Black Sea Fleet toward active steps to prevent disturbances and to cause its standoff with Kiev."

Last year, when Russia halted its oil and oil product deliveries to Ukraine, Kiev signed an agreement on fuel supplies with Azerbaijan. Since Ukraine did not have money at the time, it paid with weapons. Now a part of the weapons is being returned as surplus commodities (!). One year ago, these "surplus commodities" were used to carry out active combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh.

It is hard to believe that the Ukrainian leaders are unaware of the upcoming provocations. All the more so because recently Kiev has been replacing its troops in Crimea (primarily command personnel): servicemen hailing from Russia and the republic's eastern and southern regions are being replaced with those coming from western Ukraine. Also from there, "separate groups and formations of the Ukrainian Armed Forces' special purpose units" are being moved up to Crimea.

Last week, the conflict in Odessa briefly plunged the world into shock. The split of the fleet, which has been going on for several years already and which is seen in Moscow as a family dispute over property rights, has been assessed in the West as nothing less than a standoff between two nuclear powers. Former President Richard Nixon said in an interview for THE NEW YORK TIMES: "A conflict between Russia and Ukraine could make us see the events in Bosnia as a picnic organized by Sunday school children."

Text of Yeltsin Statement on Latvian Relations

LD2004173994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1657 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Today, the press service of the Russian president released the text of Boris Yeltsin's statement. In particular, it says:

"The Russian Federation is pursuing a consistent course of normalizing its relations with the Latvian Republic and moving them onto a footing of good-neighborliness and equal mutually advantageous cooperation with a steadfast observance of human rights.

I believe that the agreements on military matters, which were initialled this March, create a contractual and legal basis for the completion of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Latvia, and for a civilized solution to the issues connected with it. They have become possible as a result of sensible compromises and responsible approaches and meet the true and long-term interests of not merely the peoples of our countries, but of the region and Europe as a whole.

In this connection, I especially stress that we were not going and are not going to create military bases on the territory of Latvia. It is a matter only of the temporary functioning of one Russian military establishment under civilian control—the radar station in the town of Skrunda.

I believe that in the very near future my meeting with President G. Ulmanis will take place, during it a package of initialled agreements will be signed, and this will become a turning point in relations between our countries."

Government Not To Back Down in Latvia Talks

LD2104121794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1117 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova; Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1450 GMT on 21 April transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Moscow, April 21 (TASS)—"We do not find it acceptable to remove from the prepared package of documents the agreement on social security for military personnel during the troop withdrawal" Russian presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told ITAR-TASS on Thursday, commenting on the results of yesterday's session of the Latvian Sejm (Parliament).

According to the spokesman, Russia intends to insist that all of the four prepared documents be signed at the same time. Kostikov noted that President Boris Yeltsin, in his scheduled telephone conversation today with the Latvian president, might touch upon that subject.

The Russian spokesman said the Latvian Sejm had been "overwhelmed by emotions". He emphasized that Russia is interested in continuing the negotiating process with Latvia, expressing the hope that "time would solve" such problems.

Estonian Commander, Kolesnikov Discuss Troop Pullout

LD2004224994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Major-General Aleksander Einseln, commander of the Estonian defense forces, who is on a visit to Moscow, made a proposal today to the Russian Ministry of Defense on creating a joint working group of the military of the two countries which would begin to monitor the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

Einseln met today Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, Russian chief of general staff. At the meeting ideas were exchanged on the activity of the working group on military issues at the talks between Estonia and Russia and on the opportunities for military collaboration of the two countries. Kolesnikov again emphasized that solving the issue of troop withdrawal together with giving social guarantees to the retired military living in Estonia is important to Russia.

As it became known to the Baltic News Service from official sources of the Russian Defense Ministry, it was confirmed while Kolesnikov and Einseln were meeting that the instruction by Boris Yeltsin concerning the creation of Russian military bases in the CIS and Latvia was drawn up by the general staff. The instruction, issued on 5 April, caused tension between Russia and the Baltic states, especially in relations between Latvia and Russia. Kolesnikov said that the text of Yeltsin's instruction published in ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI did not correspond to the truth. Today Kolesnikov (?brought for making public) the instruction's actual contents [passage indistinct].

Tajikistan Requests Monetary Unification With Russia

LD2004170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The unification of monetary systems between Russia and any other state, apart from Belarus, is not yet on the agenda. Tajikistan, however, is requesting such a step, Acting Russian Minister for Cooperation with CIS Countries, Vladimir Mashits, told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday.

As to the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus, it as yet not known when this will take place, said Mashits. The unification agreement requires amendments to the Belarusian Constitution and if they are not taken, the question will be raised again, said the Minister.

He said that now it was difficult to offer forecasts on whether the monetary union would cause an inflation leap in Russia, as some Western experts believe. Mashits believes that wage payment delays affect inflation in Russia even more.

Commenting on the results of the CIS summit in Moscow on April 14-15, Mashits named among the most important economic decisions the creation of a commission for the economic union under the coordinating consultative committee, the agreement on the creation of a free trade zone, the understanding on re-export, an agreement on the unification of laws for the creation of commercial, financial, isurance and other similar structures.

In Moscow the states had reached an understanding on cooperation towards labor migration. The CIS leaders recognized the benefits and guarantees for those who took part in World War II, and the families of those who died. The benefits and guarantees will be equal in the CIS countries, said Mashits.

Mashits noted the importance of Ukraine joining the economic union as an associated member.

SS-25 Topol Missiles Redeployed From Belarus

LD2004135494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Video report by Mikhail Zotov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Tatyana Komarova] We would now like to show you for the first time footage our correspondent managed to film. Missiles brought out of Belarus under an agreement are being placed on alert duty in Russia.

[Mikhail Zotov] In the village of Manan-Muchash, which means—short end—in the Mari language, not far from Yoshkar-Ola, a regiment equipped with missiles brought out of Belarus under the trilateral agreement has been placed on alert duty. You can see the missiles behind me. They are the newest strategic missiles, codenamed Topol, SS-25.

The military says these strategic mobile missile complexes have no computer program devised to eliminate targets in any country that might be a potential adversary. However, the on-board electronic systems are capable of retargeting the complex within a few seconds. Radar-proof warheads can reach any point in the opposite hemisphere.

Despite the fact that the army is troubled by many problems, the missile troops are relatively well-off, and in the words of Major-General Nikolay (Moroz), are capable of maintaining a guaranteed minimum of security and independence for Russia.

Meanwhile, the West is keeping an close watch on the Topols in Mari territory. Radar stations have registered the fact that our neighbors' satellites were monitoring the redeployment of the missiles. Space, however, remains the only place from where an outsider can watch Russian

strategic missiles being placed on alert duty. On the ground it is only reporters from Ostankino's First Channel who can do it.

German Firm's Funding for LDPR Exposed

PM2104092594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

[Report by Boris Lysenko: "Give Back the Currency! German Government Demands of Zhirinovskiy's Party"]

[Text] Berlin—When in early January this year the Berlin newspapers reported the sensational news that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] may be being financed from Germany, few people believed it.

Only one thing was known for sure: The German firm TFO GMBH following a ruling from the independent state commission for checking the property of parties and mass organizations of the former GDR, was subject to a search during which important documents were confiscated at the firm itself and at the apartment of its leader, Werner Hirche. According to Josef Dirdorf, leader of the German trust agency's "special property" directorate, these documents confirmed the suggestion that "TFO had intensive contacts with Zhirinovskiy."

Official representatives of the FRG's trust agency assert that in the fall of 1993, on the eve of the elections in Russia, V. Zhirinovskiy's representatives received from a representative of Hirche's company 63,600 deutsche marks [DM]. In October-November last year over the course of a month four representatives of Zhirinovskiy's party headed by Aleksey Vedenkin, the LDPR leader's financial adviser, were in Berlin at the invitation of TFO. The DM13,600 went to keep them and 50,000 were transferred to Moscow. Now, through its lawyers in Moscow, the German trust agency is demanding that Zhirinovskiy return that sum to Germany.

The LDPR categorically sweeps aside the trust agency's demands. They say our liberal democrats are not familiar with the TFO firm.

Perhaps the FRG trust agency would not have managed to establish the true nature of the LDPR's relations with the TFO firm had it not been for one important circumstance. According to BERLINER ZEITUNG Werner Hirche, the firm's owner, has been "cooperating fruitfully" for several months now with the German law enforcement organs. With his aid the trust agency has managed to find our for sure how many German marks the Berlin company representative put into the accounts of his Russian partners in foreign banks. The trust agency has documents attesting that this sum was over Dm1 million. Thus, the accounts of Russian representatives in Luxembourg banks have been sequestered. They contain DM600,000 while a Prague bank contains DM840,000.

All your IZVESTIYA correspondent's attempts to find out the names of the Russian citizens whose bank accounts have been sequestered in Luxembourg and Prague have failed. The BERLINER ZEITUNG editorial office and the trust agency had just one reply: Specific information relating to the questions you are asking about is not yet being made public. In accordance with the federal "data protection" law it is not permitted to cite specific names until the end of the investigation. Most likely they are known to the Moscow militia but not to the journalists in Berlin.

The commission asserts that Hirche has already helped Germany to recover DM60 million. Hirche engaged in the "concealment" of Socialist Unity Party of Germany currency stocks. It was to him that the GDR's communist leaders entrusted part of their currency wealth. Hirche gave away to the commission the secret accounts of his former communist bosses in foreign banks. Hirche's truthfulness has thus been tested and his evidence is authentic.

So Hirche's testimony that currency was transferred to Moscow for the election campaign of Zhirinovskiy's party and also the existence of the relevant financial documents looks convincing. It will be very, very hard to dismiss the meticulous German officials.

The FRG mass media have taken up the LDPR leader in earnest and are beginning to investigate his "past and present with a fine toothcomb." The DM50,000 handed over to Zhirinovskiy belong to the German state and giving them to anyone is a crime.

Grachev Meets With Turkish Counterpart in Moscow

LD2004194994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palaria and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—The four-day official visit to Russia by Turkish Defence Minister Mehmet Golhan is expected to give a boost to Russian-Turkish military ties.

The first tangible results of the visit that begun just today was the signing an agreement on military and technical cooperation between the two countries by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and Golhan in Moscow on Wednesday.

During the talks, the two ministers discussed Russia's peace-keeping activity in the United Nations and the CIS. They also focused on the restriction of Russia's positions in the south, following the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The sides also touched upon the Karabakh conflict, the Bosnian crisis and the implementation of the CIS collective security agreement.

Grachev will have a one-to-one meeting with his Turkish counterpart on Sunday to discuss prospects for military and technical cooperation between Russia and Turkey and other issues of mutual concern.

On Thursday, Golhan will lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Moscow, visit the Mil design bureau and tour a motorised infantry brigade.

Grachev, Golhan View Defense Issues

TA2004183294 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1648 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Announcer-read report over video]

[Text] A military, technical, and defense industry cooperation agreement was signed between Turkey and Russia in Moscow today. The agreement was signed by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and National Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan. Both ministers noted that the agreement, which was signed at the end of talks between the two countries' delegations, bases bilateral relations on a sound foundation. During the talks, Russia once again expressed the changes it wants to introduce with regard to the implementation of the CFE agreement and briefed Golhan on NATO's Partnership for Peace plan and the sharing of the Black Sea fleet with Ukraine.

After the signing ceremony, the two ministers replied to questions by reporters. Grachev declared that Russia received approval from Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan concerning the bases it wants to establish in the Caucasus, but the installation in Azerbaijan will be an early-warning station, rather than a base. Pointing out that his country wants to deploy Russian troops in bases in the CIS countries with the approval of the relevant governments, Grachev added that this must also be ratified by the legislative organs of these countries.

Golhan, in response to a question on Bosnia-Herzegovina, declared that from the beginning Turkey has been exerting efforts to put an end to the clashes, stressing that the status of the Turkish troops to be sent to Bosnia should be approached within the framework of these peaceful efforts.

Military Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD2004134894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1236 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Palariya and Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Russia and Turkey signed an agreement on military and technical cooperation on Wednesday.

The agreement was signed by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and his Turkish counterpart Mehmet Golhan who arrived in Moscow on a four-day official visit today.

Golhan has already had talks with Grachev, his first deputy Andrey Kokoshin and Chief of the Russian General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

During the visit, the Turkish minister will visit the Mil design bureau, the state company Rosbooruzheniye and the Russian State Committee for the Defence Industry.

'Arafat Argues Tel Aviv 'Playing for Time'

LD2004152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The negotiating process between the PLO and Israel is continuing, though not too fast and not in a direction favorable to the Palestinians, the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, told a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday.

According to him, the Palestinians hope that during Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Moscow planned for April 24-27 Russia will exert influence on Israel so that it would honor the agreements reached earlier.

As 'Arafat said, in Moscow he was convinced once again of Russia's positive attitude to the peace talks in the Middle East. Evidently for Russia the Middle East is not simply a point on the map, but a close-lying area, he said.

According to the PLO leader, a Palestinian delegation will arrive in Russia shortly to conduct negotiations on economic cooperation. During his "constructive" talks with President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin and Patriarch Aleksiy II he discussed prospects for cooperation between Russia and Palestine in different areas, 'Arafat stressed.

In particular he discussed Russian aid in forming a Palestinian police force. "We did not discuss that issue in detail, leaving it to technical experts", 'Arafat said.

He highly assessed Russia's call for convening a peace conference on a settlement in the Middle East—Madrid-2—made last February.

With reference to the stand taken by Israel, 'Arafat said that Tel Aviv is playing for time. As a result the Palestinians' attempts to stimulate the talks process were futile. The commitments stated in the Declaration of Principles signed by Israel and by the PLO in Washington last September must not remain unfulfilled. The delays make it possible for the extremists forces on both sides to consolidate their ranks, and this might put an end to the peaceful political process, 'Arafat said.

He said he hopes that Rabin's talks in Moscow will "stimulate" the negotiating process. "We want Rabin to

make it absolutely clear whether he is for peace or not," 'Arafat said. "The time for words is over, it's time for actions," 'Arafat concluded.

Government Calls For Immediate End to War in Rwanda

LD2104141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, April 21 (TASS)—Russia has once again called on the warring sides in Rwanda to immediately stop their fratricide, put an end to senseless violence and return to the practical implementation of the Arusha accord with the participation of all political forces, deputy head of the Russian Foreign Ministry department of press and information Mikhail Demurin said at a briefing today.

Any positive motion aimed at an inter-Rwandan settlement will be met by Russian support and understanding, Demurin noted. "We welcome Organization of African Unity (OAU) actions aimed at stopping the bloodshed, and hope that joint efforts made by the U.N. and the OAU will lead to a turning-point in the present dramatic situation in Rwanda. In this connection Moscow supports the initiative proposed by the Tanzanian president to hold a peace conference on Rwanda in Arusha on April 23," the Russian Foreign Ministry official emphasised.

Chinese Influence in Central Asia Viewed

PM2104084194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 7

[Correspondent Andrey Krushinskiy comment: "Discovering a 'New Continent': Start of Li Peng's Tour of CIS Asian Countries"]

[Text] Beijing— "Deepening mutual understanding, furthering the development of equitable, mutually beneficial cooperation, and raising relations to a new level" is how the aims of the trip by PRC State Council Premier Li Peng to four countries of Central Asia and Mongolia which started 18 April are described in China.

Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan constitute for the time being almost an unknown continent for Chinese politics and economics. And an impressive "continent," one which combines a large market with very rich reserves of strategic resources and a quite well developed industry created during the Soviet years which promises to become a pretty important "pole" in world politics. Mutual understanding and cooperation between China and this region are still only in the formative stage: The exchange of goods is worth only millions of dollars and does not match up to its true potential.

By all accounts, economics will be the focus of attention at the upcoming meetings. Li Peng is accompanied by a large group of Chinese businessmen. Incidentally, present-day China is capable of giving these countries almost all they need, including both consumer goods and the products of heavy machine building. In other words, much of what those countries now lack as a consequence of the rupture of the many links that existed within the USSR.

There is no doubt that the interests of those states' relations with Russia will be taken into account during the upcoming talks in the four Central Asian capitals. Li Peng notably said at a press conference just before his trip began that his visit "could have only a positive effect" on those countries' relations with Russia and "could not exert a negative influence." China, according to him, would like the four countries of Central Asia also to maintain friendly relations with Russia." There is no doubting the sincerity of those words: Calm, stability, and prosperity in the region are really in the long-term interests of both Russia and China. However, in an economy (especially a market economy) competition in some form or another is an inescapable feature. However, I do not think that the chances enjoyed by the two states in this market are even. On the one hand, you have Russia, which was until recently powerful and influential but which is now rent by internal conflicts and is squandering its resources and destroying its economy, while, on the other hand, you have a stable, dynamic, and self-assured China which is rich not just in terms of export potential but in the practical experience of "shock-free" economic reform. In the eyes of many Central Asian politicians China is an attractive partner and patron.

China's growing political and economic influence in Central Asian countries is bound to work to their benefit and to the stabilizing of the general situation in the region. It is important, however, that this should not happen at the expense of the region's traditional relations with Russia; that, however, depends not on China but on Russia itself.

Political Issues

Security Council Meets on Caucasus, Cossacks, Bosnia

PM2004183394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Russian Security Council Has Examined Situation in Hotspots"]

[Text] Russian policy toward the conflict situations in nearby and more distant countries—that was the main theme of the Russian Federation Security Council session chaired by B. Yeltsin in the Kremlin 20 April.

The session examined two main questions: on Russia's policy in the Caucasus region and on the fulfillment of decisions on state support for the Cossacks. However, as Security Council Secretary O. Lobov said in conversation with your IZVESTIYA correspondent, Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev also briefed the Council on the situation in Bosnia. In view of the fact that B. Yeltsin's initiative to hold a summit meeting of leaders of the interested states on the Bosnian problem is meeting with growing support, it was decided to speed up its preparation. Working contacts have already begun in this regard.

A. Kozyrev gave the Security Council members a detailed report on the military-political situation in the region of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh and also in connection with the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The general opinion, O. Lobov said, is this: Russia's interests in this region—first and foremost the existence of a considerable Russian diaspora there and the presence of a large military contingent—dictate the necessity of strengthening its peacemaking role in those conflicts. Since organizations like the United Nations and the CSCE cannot send their forces there, Russia advocates the presence of Defense Ministry disengagement forces in the conflict zones, as well as the presence of observers from international organizations.

As for the problem of the Cossacks, the Security Council session took note of the slow solution of the questions of ensuring self-government in the Cossack communities and granting them land. In some regions there have been confrontations between local administrations and Cossack elected organs. On the other hand, the government and the president's structures have a common position regarding the rehabilitation of the Cossacks as a community [sosloviye]. A general federal program will be drafted in that regard. The president is going to send the State Duma a draft law on the return of land to Cossack settlements. This process will have different features in different regions, of course. As for the performance of military service by Cossacks, the Cossack formations will be introduced into the structures of the Defense Ministry and the border troops.

Yeltsin: Balance Between Powers 'Taking Shape'

LD2004145394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—"A balance between the executive and representative powers is taking shape." This was stated by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin at a meeting with the heads of administrations of Russian krays and oblasts, when he was summing up the results of elections to local bodies of power that had been held in a number of regions.

According to Boris Yeltsin, "the elections were normal, though not everywhere was their quality good." In June there will be elections in the rest of the regions. "We must continue work to truly provide a real division of power," stressed Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin Urges Regional Leaders Sign Civic Accord

LD2004141994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1206 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—"The political situation in Russia began to stabilise", Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a meeting with regional leaders on Wednesday. He confirmed that the civic accord agreement is to be signed in the Kremlin on April 28 and said that nearly 140 political and piblic organisations are going to join it.

Yeltsin urged all branches of authority, political parties and public organisations to sign the agreement and called on all Russian regional leaders to follow suit. The president proposed to regional leaders to "meet regularly, in small groups" in order to "frankly speak and discuss all regional problems".

Leaders Support Yeltsin

LD2004150094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1433 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—The leaders of Russian regions who met with President Boris Yeltsin to sum up the results of local elections adopted the following statement in Moscow on Wednesday.

"We, representatives of Russian regions, support the idea of signing the memorandum on civil peace and accord in Russia.

"We are confident that the implementation of the tasks set by this memorandum—to ensure political stability, exclude any forms of extremism from the arsenal of methods used in political practice, set up lasting mechanisms of accord, establish a new political culture, overcome the estrangement between the society and power and, consequently, create favourable social atmosphere

for successful continuation of reforms—meet the inspirations of the overwhelming majority of people of Russia.

"We call on all Russian regions, political parties, movements and public organisations to leave behind their disagreements and join the memorandum on civil peace and accord in Russia in the name of peace and prosperity of our motherland."

The text of the statement was released by the presidential press service.

Further on Leaders' Meeting

LD2104123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1217 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has begun a meeting with the heads of the republics which are component parts of the Russian Federation. Opening the meeting, he said, "The system of meetings with the republic heads is being renewed".

According to the president, such meetings with republic leaders should be held approximately "five to seven times a year". He noted that Thursday's meeting is the first since the adoption of a new constitution and the elections to the Federal Assembly.

"Much has changed in the country in the past few months, political stabilisation is gaining strength, the disastrous state of dual-power has been overcome", Boris Yeltsin pointed out. He also informed the local heads about his work with the chairmen of the Federation Council and State Duma, saying that there "have been no disagreements so far".

On the topic of the recent local elections in Russia, the president noted that "the elections were valid in 61 federal regions. In only 17 was voter turnout too low". He expressed the hope that all the local elections would be held by the end of the current year.

Yeltsin Spokesman on Signing

LD2104112294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Remarks by Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary for President Boris Yeltsin, "this morning" in Moscow—recorded]

[Text] Yesterday in the evening one of the last versions, if not the very last, of the text was drawn up to be submitted to the State Duma. Today this document will be handed over to the president and to the State Duma, where it will be discussed. I would like to inform you that this document will now be called A Treaty on Public Accord [Dogovor ob Obshchestvennom Soglasii]. This is a truly agreed upon text. It takes into account comments made by factions, parties, and public organizations, including the comments of Communists and the Liberal Democratic Party. The text has become more specific and, if you like, milder in its political part. During the process of consultations several provisions, which can be used for confrontation purposes, were removed from it. In particular, paragraphs on sanctions against those who violate the conditions of the accords were removed.

As you know, a week is left before signing. Today I spoke to Boris Nikolayevich on this topic and asked him how much he hopes for success. He said that he is optimistic. He hopes for success and believes in it. The president understands that not everyone will sign this document, but the main political forces and groups will sign it. In our view, the necessary mass of political will toward an accord will be created—not just created, but registered as well.

Yeltsin on Opposition

LD2004164694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1422 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—"The political situation in Russia has begun to stabilize," Russian President Boris Yeltsin stated, opening a meeting with heads of administrations of Russia's krays and oblasts today.

Boris Yeltsin said that there has been real collaboration with the Federation Council and the State Duma. "I have frequent meetings with Vladimir Shumeyko and Ivan Rybkin, we discuss issues of concern to Russia, and we reach agreement in a calm atmosphere. This style of work has a positive effect on the general political improvement in the country," the president said.

Boris Yeltsin confirmed that the signing of the Agreement on Civic Peace and Accord will take place on 28 April in St. George's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. About 140 organizations are expected to take part in the ceremony. The president called for the agreement to be signed by all branches of power, political parties, and public organizations. He believes that representatives of the power structures of the krays, oblasts, and Russian Federation republics should also sign the document.

Of those political forces who have so far opposed signing the agreement, Boris Yeltsin said: "We will not insist on them signing this document." Russians, he added "will see for themselves what the words of such leaders and their programs mean in practice." The head of state noted that, so far, only the Communists have stated their opposition to signing the agreement, but "perhaps, this only applies to a section of their leadership," the president remarked.

"We want this document to be a major political step, like in Spain, where a similar memorandum was also signed," he said. A special coordinating commission should monitor implementation of the agreement, the president believes.

I think, said Boris Yeltsin, that the accords on military issues initialled in March 1994 create a legal and diplomatic framework for completing the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Latvia, and for resolving questions relating to this matter in a civilized manner. "They became possible as a result of sensible compromises and responsible attitudes, and they correspond to the real long-term interests not only of the peoples of our countries but of the entire region, of Europe as a whole." I hope "to have a meeting with Guntis Ulmanis in the near future where a package of the initialled agreements will be signed, which will become a turning-point in the relations between our two countries," Russian president said.

Parties Criticize Agreement

LD2004125594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Having on the whole supported the draft civic concord agreement, the Democratic Russia Movement and the Socialist Workers Party have at the same time addressed to the presidential administration several complaints against this document, expected to be signed on April 28.

In its statement, the Democratic Russia Movement calls for the deletion from the draft agreement of the thesis banning the use of assessments of the events of August 1991 and of September-October 1993 "as a pretext for deepening the confrontation". The movement's coordination council regards this thesis as "unacceptable". This view is shared by Valeriya Novodvorskaya, leader of the Russian Democratic Union. Interviewed by ITAR-TASS, the eminent human rights defender said: "How will the democrats be able to look into the eyes of the people, whom they had urged to man the barricades, if such a dubious ban is adopted?".

The supporters of Democratic Russia want some declarative commitments to be deleted from the text of the agreement and a clearer delimitation of responsibilities for the fulfilment of the memorandum terms.

Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party Lyudmila Vartazarova moves to delete from the draft agreement paragraphs duplicating the Russian Constitution or contradicting it in the part relating to the observance of human rights. Moreover, Vartazarova warns against "the discreditation of the very idea of national concord by rash and unconsidered actions". She suggests a procedure for the document's broad public discussion.

Democratic Russia Demands Amendments

LD2004203794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The point stipulating that "the sides shall call for avoiding assessments of the events which occurred in August 1991 and October 1993 as a pretext for deepening confrontation" must be left out of the agreement on civic accord in Russia because it is unacceptable, according to a statement of the coordinating council of Democratic Russia published in Moscow Wednesday.

The council supported Boris Yeltsin's initiative to develop an agreement between the major political forces and his declared course towards social consensus. At the same time, Democratic Russia listed a number of conditions which, in its opinion, must be met while developing and signing the agreement.

According to Democratic Russia, the Russian government can be allowed to sign the agreement only if it fulfills all its promises to pay salaries to state workers such as servicemen, medical and culture workers and policemen. Democratic Russia believes that persons and political forces whose actions violated Russian laws, who triggered and deliberately organized mass disorders, fanned ethnic differences and called for war and violence must not be allowed to sign the agreement.

The agreement must impose a responsibility before society upon everyone who signs it, Democratic Russia maintained. The movement's political council believes that the agreement should clearly outline the obligations of all sides, including the president, the government, the Federal Assembly, political parties, trade unions and other social organizations.

Communists Undecided

LD2004172194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1437 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Russian Communists are still hesitating about signing Boris Yeltsin's memorandum on Civil Peace and Accord. The ceremony is scheduled for April 28. Gennadiy Zyuganov, the leader of the Russian Communist Party representing the moderate branch of the movement, said on Wednesday that the final decision on whether to sign the memorandum will be taken at a party national conference on April 23-24.

However, speaking at a news conference today, Zyuganov expressed doubts that any true accord could be reached if signing to a document is limited by one fixed day. "If we take (civil) truce and accord seriously, I stand for a gradual approach towards such a variant which, instead of ideology, would rather focus on the national and state interests and take into account Russia's traditions, contain a mechanism of stabilizing the situation", the communist leader said. Zyuganov reiterated his support of the idea that "a government of national confidence should come to power by democratic means" in Russia.

Salvation Front Official Comments

LD2004165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Apr—The National Salvation Front (NSF) intends to hold a session of the NSF Council this Sunday [24 April]. It is to elect the NSF leadership and discuss the organization's immediate tasks. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this today from Ilya Konstantinov, chairman of the NSF Executive Committee.

The activities of the organization were suspended following the events of 3-4 October 1993, while Konstantinov himself was arrested. He was released from jail following the amnesty resolution passed by the State Duma.

Asked by the ITAR-TASS correspondent to give his assessment of the Accord for Russia movement, which is being set up with the help of Aleksandr Rutskoy, Konstantinov said it was too early to do this. At this stage the NSF is distancing itself from the movement.

Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Russian Federation Communist Party, who once actively participated in the activities of the NSF and is now one of the initiators of the creation of the Accord for Russia movement, told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that he was still advocating the strengthening of the patriotic movement and the unification of all national-patriotic forces. In his view, this unification is impeded on the one hand, by the policy of the authorities and on the other, by increasing radicalism among nationalist patriots, both left- and right-wing.

EFP Chairman Comments

MK2104093094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 2

[POSTFACTUM report under the "In Brief" rubric]

[Text] Konstantin Borovoy, chairman of the Economic Freedom Party [EFP], has advised that the EFP's attitude to the Agreement on Civil Peace will be discussed at the party's political council on 28 April. In his view, the signing of the agreement would signify a conservation of the status quo, whereas "putting today's situation, with all its negative sides considered, on ice is a renunciation of the democratic process of development." He appreciated the stance of the president who seeks accord in society; however, in his words, the EFP "cannot give up supporting citizens' interests," that is, waging struggle.

Poll Shows Pessimism

LD2004142094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] "The agreement on civic peace in Russia will be prepared but it will change nothing in the political situation in the country." This is the view of 71.5 percent of respondents who participated in the opinion poll conducted by the independent service Vox Populi headed by Professor Boris Grushin, member of the Presidential council, in late March - early April. As many as 400 public figures, deputies of the State Duma, leaders of executive power bodies, leaders of political parties, prominent entrepreneurs, military commanders, media representatives, and scientific and cultural workers participated in the poll.

According to 15 percent of the opinion poll's participants, "the agreement will be prepared and will reach its goal," 6.5 percent said the "the agreement will not be prepared at all." Military commanders and media leaders, 88 percent and 80 percent respectively, are especially pessimistic with respect to peace and accord. There were more optimists among the executive leaders (34 percent) and directors of state enterprises (18 percent).

Democratic Russia Planning New Political Party

LD2004223794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2054 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belsky]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—The Moscow branch of the Democratic Russia Movement welcomed plans to create a liberal conservative party, likely to be called "Russia's Choice", and announced readiness to help organize it.

A resolution to this effect was passed at the report-back election conference of Democratic Russia's Moscow branch. The initiative to set up a new party was moved by the Russia's Choice parliamentary faction led by key reformer Yegor Gaydar.

According to most speakers at the conference, the new party is to promote "consolidation of democratic forces". Ilya Zaslavskiy, a Democratic Russia leader, said "the powerful, disciplined political association of reformers" would counterbalance opposition forces presently gathering strength. The planned organization based on dual membership "is by no means counterpoised to the Democratic Russia Movement", Zaslavskiy emphasised.

However, some of the Democratic Russia leaders do not share this view, for example Lev Ponomaryov, Dmitriy Katayev and Gleb Yakunin. According to Yakunin, "creation of the party will bury the Moscow branch of Democratic Russia" by turning it into a mere appendage to the political organization headed by Gaydar.

New 'Power Party' Defines Credo

PM2104083594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Viktor Movchan report: "Power Party's Debut"]

[Text] The founding congress of Russia's Power Party [Derzhavnaya Partiya] was held in the settlement of Lesnoy Gorodok, Moscow Oblast, 17 April. The congress adopted the party's rules and program and elected the party's central organs. Stanislav Terekhov was elected the party's chairman. Participating in the work of the congress were the party's founders: representatives of the Officers Union, the analytical group for the history of the development of people's state-patriotic forces, public organizations of working people, industrialists, Cossacks, and parties and movements of a state-patriotic orientation from 15 regions of the country.

The new party's chief aim is to build a new society, progress, social justice, universal well-being, lofty spirituality, friendship of the peoples, and a unified Russian State.

The backbone of the party is made up of representatives of the Officers Union, which has outgrown the purely officers' movement and become a sociopolitical center and a force with a clearly expressed state-patriotic orientation—which was threatening to erode this movement by admitting as members people who are not officers. On the other hand, the juridical status of a public movement was substantially restricting its participation in the political life of society. Precisely these reasons served as the basis for adopting the decision on the need to create a party which would unite people from different sections of society on the basis of the idea of serving the fatherland.

Rutskoy Lawsuit Against IZVESTIYA Thrown Out

PM2104100194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Court Throws Out A. Rutskoy's Suit Against IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] The capital's Tverskoy Intermunicipal People's Court has considered the latest defamation suit brought by former Vice President A. Rutskoy against IZVESTIYA.

This time it was Aleksey Chelnokov's article "Young Nazi Drinks Toast and Reads 'Mein Kampf'" (IZVESTIYA, 15 January 1994) that was selected as the cause of the suit—specifically the following fragment: "By his 'presidential' edict Rutskoy made a Russian National Unity subunit equivalent to a military organization. The Barkashov people gained the right to bear arms—within the Khasbulatov citadel, of course." The plaintiff was seeking 100 million rubles [R] for this "dishonor" and the moral damage done to him.

He himself preferred not to attend the hearing, predicting which questions he would have to answer. In particular, the respondents were interested in whether he seriously considered himself Russian president and, correspondingly, commander in chief, during those tragic days, and whether he deliberately violated the Russian Federation laws "On Weapons," "On Defense," "On the Military Draft and Military Service," and "On the Status of Servicemen" in randomly issuing weapons to people with very dubious political beliefs and by no means irreproachable moral qualities. By failing to appear, A. Rutskoy also avoided having to answer the question of whether he had invited Barkashov's followers to provide his own security—which A. Barkashov himself recently revealed in an interview with SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

The respondent A. Chelnokov submitted photographs to the court clearly recording the Barkashov followers with their assault rifles and stylized swastikas on their sleeves. This could not have happened without the clearly expressed consent of A. Rutskoy. The court was also presented with his "edicts": on his own accession as acting president, on the appointment of the "defense minister," and so forth. The very fact that these so-called documents were published meant that their author assumed full responsibility for the possible consequences of the uncontrolled distribution of weapons—consequences which were soon to be felt.... Consequently, talk of some kind of defamation, much less of R100-million damages is just more blasphemy.

Carefully weighing all the circumstances and the case file considered during the hearing, Judge Olga Sergeyeva threw out A. Rutskoy's suit.

Rutskoy Addresses Free Russia People's Party

PM2104100994 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Olga Koroleva: "Rutskoy Has Not Left Politics"]

[Text] Former Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, released from Lefortovo prison in late February, is still avoiding public statements and meetings with journalists. Nonetheless, he recently delivered a speech at a closed session of the Free Russia People's Party [FRPP], of which he is the chairman. He introduced a number of comments and suggestions to the drafts of the party's policy statement and statute, which are to be adopted at the second FRPP congress in late May this year:

"We must determine more precisely our party's aims and ways of achieving them in order to attract as many supporters as possible to our side—for victory at the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. Our party must be mass-based. Achieving this will be hard but feasible: After all, in all corners of Russia there are people in sympathy with us...."

A. Rutskoy announced that he is now working on the books *Collapse of Power* [Krusheniye derzhavy] and *Acquiring Faith* [Obreteniye very] which he began writing in his cell in Lefortovo prison. In the next few months the book *Collapse of Power* will be completed.

Anpilov on Subbotnik Tradition, May Day

PM2004152594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[Nadezhda Garifullina report: "Tradition Lives On!"]

[Text] The Moskva-Sortirovochnaya workers' depots dedicated their action last Sunday to the 75th anniversary of the first communist subbotnik. Together with members of Working Russia, they cleaned up the area around the monument to the participants in the first communist subbotnik. Working Perovo has decided to sponsor this rayon.

Several hundred people also went to the monument to Karl Marx that day. During the operation to clean up the adjoining public garden an enormous number of used disposable syringes were discovered among the mountains of garbage which the "democratic" authorities are too busy to remove. Addressing a rally, Working Russia leader Viktor Anpilov said that the time has come to clear not just the city of garbage but society of the filth which we have acquired from the capitalization foisted on us by Yeltsin's reforms. While there I managed to snatch a brief impromptu interview from Anpilov on the actions which Working Russia intends to carry out in the near future. Here is what he said:

"Active preparations for the May Day demonstration are underway in all Russia's cities. The assemblies of residents of Tyumen, Ishim, and Voronezh and the congress of working people of Moscow and the greater Moscow region have sent telegrams to Prime Minister Chernomyrdin demanding that the May Day demonstration by Moscow's working people on the 1 May state holiday be held without interference. The appropriate notification has been sent to the Moscow authorities by the Russian Communist Workers Party, the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU, and the Union of Communists.... At 1000 hours on 23 April Working Russia will hold a congress at the Reutovo Palace of Culture in which delegations from communist and workers parties from Brazil, Greece, the United States, Syria, Turkey, and Finland will be taking part. Incidentally, we are inviting Soviet and foreign journalists and accreditation will take place one hour before the congress opens."

Chernomyrdin 'Secretly' Grants Funds to Volskiy

PM2004130194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kucherenko report: "Secretly and Retrospectively"]

[Text] Premier V. Chernomyrdin signed Directive No. 451-R 31 March.

Under this document the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, headed by A. Volskiy, is allocated 1.2 billion rubles from the government's reserve fund. And in the first quarter of the year, which has already ended!

The aim is a fine one—to ensure that enterprises with competitive technologies have enough funds to take part in Washington's "Technology From Russia" exhibition, which will run from 4 through 15 May. But why is this being done secretly, without coordination with the legislators? Why are the candidates to take part in the exhibition being selected not by the state but by a social organization? It seems a state, legally ratified program for support for highly developed production facilities ought to be adopted to define the specific recipients of budgetary aid.

It remains unclear just how controls will ensure that taxpayers' funds are spent strictly as they should be. And why is aid going without any competition to one out of hundreds of industrialists' social organizations, rather than to the Federation of Commodity Producers, say? All this runs directly counter both to the principles of a healthy market and to the idea of strengthening a rule-of-law state.

Student Organization Regrets Arbat Clashes

PM2004133494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Irina Yuryeva report: "Students Stage Organized Protest"]

[Text] As we reported, the Russian Association of Trade Union Organizations for Students in Higher Educational Establishments [RATUOS] staged a picket of the White House 12 April in order to draw the government's attention once more to the plight of the student population.

Government staff received representatives of the association and a constructive conversation took place between them—the students were promised that the unpaid stipend owed them will be paid and measures will be taken to prevent such a thing happening in the future. Apart from this, the student leaders agreed to meet with Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov. After this the student pickets were withdrawn.

But representatives of political organizations which use any opportunity for self-advertisement remained in the area by the White House. After the picket was over, they organized themselves into a column and set off for Novyy Arbat, where they clashed with the militia.

The RATUOS press and information center put out a statement from the chairman of its governing body, O. Denisov, expressing regret about the participation of several students in the unauthorized march but placing most of the blame for what happened on representatives of extremist organizations which used the students' nonpolitical event for their own purposes.

Group Says Government Wants To Control Media

LD2004140794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Efforts to seize full control over the mass media are becoming increasingly marked, according to Aleksey Simonov, head of the Foundation for Protecting Openness. He told a news conference on Wednesday that these efforts included the intention of the Russian Committee for the Press "to take all publishing facilities into one fist", as well as too wider powers to be given to the Federal Broadcasting Service under a law which is being drafted at the moment.

A bill on state support of the "fourth power" by granting it tax preferences has stumbled in parliament. For this reason, the press will have to live on state subsidies this and next year.

The situation over broadcasting media is even more strained, since they have been continually threatened with strikes of communications workers. Simonov expressed puzzle as to why the state cannot "free" the TV and radio companies it cannot maintain. He also complained about disunity of journalists' actions in solving these issues.

The Foundation for Protecting Openness, numbering only five staffers, was founded three years ago. It is engaged in monitoring violations of journalists' rights throughout the Commonwealth of independent States. The foundation also set up a mass media law school and participated in actions aimed at release of newsmen illegally jailed in zones of inter-ethnic conflicts.

'Brain Drain' Increase Causes 'Alarm'

PM2004151994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: " 'Brain Drain' Continues"]

[Text] Around 100,000 people leave Russia every year. Russian Federation Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan reported this to an RIA correspondent. He said that the level of emigration has doubled as compared with 1989. From what the minister said, thousands of skilled workers, specialists, and representatives of creative professions are leaving the country, which may have a negative effect on its intellectual and labor potential. "The 'brain drain' process from fundamental science, the defense complex, and sectors which have found themselves in the most difficult situation in the period of the restructuring of the economy, is generating particularly great alarm."

At the same time, the minister noted that the influx of refugees into Russia, which has assumed a "steady and constant nature," is growing.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Shutdowns at Kola Nuclear Station

LD2104092494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 21 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Murmansk Oblast is on the brink of a power crisis. Two power units of the Kola nuclear power station have already been shut down. The nuclear power station accounts for 60 percent of the electricity generated in the region. Engineers will have to shut down yet another power unit of the nuclear power station in June. The situation in the region may have an effect at an all-Russian level, too, because a failure to restart all the power units of Kola nuclear power station, which supplies power to the Northern Fleet's rear bases and garrisons, will adversely affect the fleet's combat readiness.

Minister Demands Stop to Nuclear Waste Disposal

LD2004192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] There are adverse environment conditions over as much as 20 percent of Russian territory, Environment Minister Danilov-Danilyan said in Moscow on Wednesday. He said his ministry demanded a special resolution to prevent Russia from further dumping of liquid nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan.

He said the Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations was not entitled to issue licences for imports of nuclear waste from other countries until after the go-ahead from environmental experts. However, the minister said that much too often, nuclear waste was imported into Russia under the guise of materials intended for reprocessing as evidenced by a recent incident in Orenburg.

The minister denied media accusations that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a deal on imports of liquid nuclear waste from Hungary for reprocessing in Russia. He blamed Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov for signing this deal instead. The minister said the agreement did not go through an ecological safety study and "is therefore illegal."

Danilov-Danilyan called for a review of all previous international agreements on nuclear waste disposal in Russia to be followed by parliamentary ratification.

Expedition Finds No Danger From Nuclear Dumping

OW2104064494 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[Text] The international Russian-Japanese-[South] Korean expedition aboard the scientific research vessel Okean recently conducted a survey of regions for the storage in the Sea of Japan of the Pacific Fleet's liquid radioactive waste. Measurements of the concentration of radioactive matter in seawater, sediments on the ocean's bottom, and vegetation and animal life showed that everything was within the norms of natural background [radiation]. This confirmed again that the recent dumping of waste carried out in October 1993 posed no danger.

Pacific Fleet Told To Comply With Nuclear Safety

LD2004215894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The administration of Primorsky Territory has accused commanders of the Pacific Fleet and management of a local factory of failing to comply with safety standards for storing nuclear waste. Its statement says that more than 2,000 cubic meters of liquid nuclear waste was kept in fleet and factory-owned tankers moored in the Bolshoi Kamen bay, most of them unfit for durable storage.

As a result, radiation levels in the region have risen, according to findings by an interdepartmental commission of inquiry. The commission said radiation levels had doubled in the engine department of a TNT-5 tanker which was written off two years ago and were several times in excess of background radiation in the bay itself.

The regional authorities have given the fleet command and factory management until April 25 to comply with safety standards for nuclear waste storage. Earlier, the commission had agreed to the dumping of a load of liquid nuclear waste held in the TNT-5 tanker into the Sea of Japan.

Convention on Chemical Disarmament To Be Ratified

LD2004163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Ratification by Russia of the Convention on Chemical Disarmament is designed to stabilize the situation in the entire world, said Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Kuntsevich, a full member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He opened here on Wednesday the second international conference on chemical disarmament, "Moskon' 94", with a presentation on problems of elimination of chemical warfare agents.

Kuntsevich said Russia now possesses the world's biggest stock of toxic agents. According to official data, it has accumulated on its territory over 40,000 tons of products by the military chemical complex, which is enough to poison every living being on the globe.

The issue of recycling chemical warfare agents is out of the scope of Russia's interests. Participants in the conference noted that introduction of imperfect technologies might create hotbeds of ecological tension not only on the cites of war gases elimination but also in other regions. Experience gained in this sphere by other countries, in particular by the United States, cannot be copied in Russia. Developments by Russian researchers are opposed by foreign experts just out of considerations of competition. Some Western theoreticians and industrialists insist that lewisite be incinerated, while Russian specialists suggest extracting highly- pure arsenic out of this hazard chemical agent.

Russian supplies of this valuable material used in making solar energy plants designed to replace atomic stations in the next century will somewhat squeeze Western arsenic producers on the world market. Thus, purely scientific problems raised by participants in the forum are acquiring a very different meaning.

Professor Vladlen Malyshev, adviser to the head of the Committee for Conventional Problems of Chemical and Biological Weapons under the Russian president, told TASS that "Moskon' 94" had drawn chemical researchers from many countries. In coordination with their colleagues from the Russian Academy of Sciences and producers, they are seeking for ways of safest destruction of Russia's huge stock-piles of toxic agents. In doing this, the adviser said, we should first of all take into account humane ecological problems and national interests.

"At the same time, researchers and specialists of the military chemical complex understand quite well that ratification by Russia of the convention on chemical disarmament will stabilize the situation across the world, but this truth should also become an axiom for politicians, lawmakers and the public at large," Malyshev stressed.

Strategic Missiles Kept 'in Case of an Attack'

LD2104124994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] The commander of the Strategic Forces Division, General Igor Sergeyev, says that Russia is loyal to its international obligations under the SALT II treaty [as heard]. A group of journalists was allowed to visit the division, that is deployed in the Volga region. They visited the headquarters and got acquainted with combat equipment of the division.

General Sergeyev reported that the SS-20 medium range missiles had been liquidated in keeping with the treaty. As for the strategic missiles, they are targeted nowhere. They will be assigned a special task, the commander said, only in case of an attack on Russia.

Shumeyko Calls For Increase in Conscription

LD2104103994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's revival is impossible without the revival of the army. This is what Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, thinks. However, as he stressed today in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, there can be no question of strengthening the army while we are indulging in populist gestures and exempting hundreds of thousands of young people from army service.

Vladimir Shumeyko visited the Taman motorized rifle division today. He acquainted himself with the problems of the guards' formation, and talked to the servicemen.

In keeping with the legislation which is in effect, some 200 restrictions exist which, according to the speaker of parliament's upper chamber, do not allow the army to be manned with a sufficiently large contingent of conscripts. "Of 1.5 million young men, we need to call up at least 700,000, and not 200,000 which is the current figure. We cannot go on putting up with this situation," Vladimir Shumeyko thinks. He noted that a "military package" of laws will soon be analyzed in the Federation Council in order to introduce changes relating to conscription into military service.

Zhirinovskiy Urges Draft of Pre-Perestroyka Men

LD2104124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Nechayev]

[Text] Moscow, April 21 (TASS)—Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky fears the youth today cannot decently protect the motherland because of poor health undermined by during the years of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and called to recruit men of "older age who did not suffer from perestroika in childhood".

"The youth today are not like they used to be before perestroika. Misery, hunger, life in constant fear for future (which began for the kids at nine years of age, that is with perestroika years) resulted in that drafted to the army now will be weak and sick guys who are unable neither to protect the motherland nor themselves", the press service of the Liberal Democratic Party said on Thursday quoting Zhirinovskiy. "It is possible to recruit up to two million volunteers and let children study", the statement reads.

Speaking at parliamentary hearings on civic accord agreement, Zhirinovskiy proposed to the Russian president to cancel his decree which stripped students of vocational schools who have reached 18 years of age of the right to defer military service.

Army, Spetsnaz, OMON Units Ready for May Day

PM2004191794 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Zhanna Kasyanenko report under the "Rumors and Official News" rubric: "Clubs for May Day"]

[Text] During the discussion of the State Duma agenda yesterday morning, Deputy V. Marychev (Liberal Democratic Party of Russia) took the microphone and voiced concern at the power structures' vigorous preparation for the May Day holiday. A multitude of crimes are committed in the capital every day, God knows what kind of "guests" visit it, yet the law enforcement organs are not very worried about all this, the deputy noted, but as soon as the day commemorating spring and labor draws near they begin rehearsing operations using clubs and gas in the Luzhniki stadium.... After a brief exchange between the deputy and the presidium, it was decided that the May Day preparations will be discussed at a session soon.

But what in fact were the deputies worried about?

It has come to light from several sources that two Taman Division regiments—the 1st and 15th Motorized Rifle Regiments—are getting ready for May Day with armored personnel carriers. Blackmail and threats are being employed against officers who are not in favor of sending the regiments into the city.

It is being said that the parachute regiment has been transferred from Tula to Khimki. Part of a spetsnaz regiment from Bryansk, allegedly formed from hired criminal elements, has gone to the Sofrinskaya Brigade for training. A communications brigade has been transferred from Sokolniki to another location and has been replaced in Sokolniki by a separate battalion of airborne assault troops directly subordinate to the defense minister. The 901st Personal Ministerial Spetsnaz Battalion has been stationed in Kubinka. The regiments of the Pskov, Tula, and Ryazan Divisions have been virtually disarmed but each of them has one battalion which is being maintained on combat alert condition 1.

There is information that Moscow Mayor Luzhkov is almost personally involved in the formation of MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] subunits. Former OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] members, militia men, and Afghan war veterans are being recruited to them. They are being promised enormous pay and apartments in Moscow. The Moscow spetsnaz subunits are being urgently reformed into rapid reaction detachments. State of emergency headquarters are being set up under all Rayon Internal Affairs Departments in Moscow.

In addition, specific means of influence on people are being made ready: These include far from "harmless" types of gas, such as "cheremukha" [tear gas], and

noise-making devices capable of causing panic and rendering a crowd uncontrolable. Hired provocateurs are being trained to fire on OMON units [dlya ognevogo porazheniya omontsev] during the mass events.

I would like the authorities to tell us what all these preparations betoken or else deny the facts that I have cited.

Military Strength, Trade Issues Viewed

PM2004140794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Military desk report: "...And Morale in the Barracks Is Steadily Growing"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] **Plus or Minus Half A Million**

Not so long ago in an interview with ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov, former military adviser to the Russian Federation president, said that the numerical strength of the Russian Army stood at 1.8 million men. Soon afterward Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, in an interview with SEGODNYA, claimed that there are 2.1 million men in the Russian Army. Literally the next day Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated at a press conference in the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense that there are 2,341,000 men in the Russian Armed Forces.

Such acute discrepancies are today the object of serious analysis by many Russian and foreign military experts. In the main two conclusions can be drawn from the analytical materials: Either Russia's top generals do not know the true state of affairs, or they are deliberately bluffing, misleading both the "enemy" and the authorities so as to extort as much money as possible for military needs. In favor of the latter hypothesis is the fact that CIA Director James Woolsey recently told the U.S. Congress that, according to data compiled by all branches of U.S. intelligence and verified many times over, the numerical strength of the Russian Armed Forces as of the beginning of 1994 stood at 1,554,000 men.

Our Military-Industrial Complex Reaches the Republic of South Africa

A large group of engineers and designers from the Russian military-industrial complex set off 17 April on a TU-204 aircraft for Johannesberg. The aim of the trip is to participate in the international air show "Aviation Africa 1994." This will be the first time that Russia has been represented on such a large scale in the RSA [Republic of South Africa]: from major defense enterprises to the Tupolev, Beriyev, Mikoyan, and Kamov firms. What, were our weapons in short supply only in the RSA?

"Let me stress: The exhibition is a purely civilian affair. We are not taking any military items to the RSA, especially since no one has lifted the corresponding UN embargo," E. Neymark, chief of the Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry Aviation Industry Main Directorate said. "The only real exhibit that we are presenting is the TU-204; the rest are models, artillery boards, and video trailers. We hope that our participation in the air show will promote Russian aviation technology and know-how on the South African market."

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But aren't you afraid? More than 10 Russians who went to an air show in Chile recently were robbed on the streets, and one was almost shot.

[Neymark] You can get shot in Moscow too—it's no big deal. And anyway, two of our people are already there; they phoned recently: Everything is quiet, the Germans, Americans, and French have confirmed their participation. We will be flying back 26 April, the day before the [South African] elections. [passage omitted]

Mission in Beijing

M. Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, visited China last week. The aims and results of the visit are shrouded in secrecy. However, according to certain information, in addition to talks on additional arms deliveries, the general tried to dispel Beijing's extreme caution over Russia's signing of the NATO "Partnership for Peace" program, now in preparation, and also over plans to build the "Svobodnyy" Space Center near the Chinese border. Did he manage to reassure the Chinese, and if so, at what price?

"Land Reform" in the Ministry of Defense

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has learned that a major furor has erupted over the publication in a newspaper of the scandal over the "land reform" of Grachev aide General Ivanov. As a result of the reform around 100 land plots intended for officials of the military department's central apparatus have disappeared somewhere. Early on Saturday morning Grachev had a stern talk with Ivanov, after which the Ministry of Defense threw all its efforts into composing a refutation. There is so far no talk of any investigation. [passage omitted]

Baltic Navy Official on Scraping Vessels

WS2004153394 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 31 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Second Rank Captain A. Bogorubov, chief of the Baltic Fleet group for the export of obsolete ships, by O. Shcheblykin in Kaliningrad, under the "Firsthand" rubric; date not given: "Ships Will Wait for a While and Never Set Sail"]

[Bogorubov] Our group received its name after the Baltic Fleet commander in chief issued an order in February

1993. We are engaged only in preparing ships for sale abroad, while agreements are signed at the Defense Ministry Central Management for Material Resources and Foreign Economic Relations.

[Shcheblykin] The Baltic Fleet is in a difficult financial situation, and the nonbudget money that it could get from selling obsolete ships would be quite useful.

[Bogorubov] In general, this is how things really stand. However, the fleet has not yet received anything for the cruiser "Sverdlov," which was sold to India for $2 million back in 1992. All appeals to Moscow have been fruitless....

Between 1992 and 1993, with the permission of the Baltic Fleet command, we concluded agreements on the sale of all obsolete combat vessels, including those which had sunk, by the Tallinn naval base. This was better than losing them all for nothing. The money for lifted and scrapped ships used to come in the course of work. The work was temporarily discontinued because the sea froze near the Estonian coast. After the ice melts, work will begin anew and money will start coming in.

[Shcheblykin] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, as far as I know, a particularly difficult situation has emerged in Liepaja. There are a great many sunken vessels there. What will happen to them?

[Bogorubov] Ten ships have been sunk in Liepaja, including the cruiser "Groznyy," a torpedo boat, and several patrol boats. Four border patrol boats have been left in abeyance. Subsidiary ships have also been sunk. We managed to find a firm that would buy our ships and take care of raising, scrapping, and selling them. For example, the Latvian company "Siklin" has undertaken to sell the vessels under such terms. The fleet would receive 90 percent of the net income. In September 1993, we signed an agreement with the Latvian company "Spero" on the sale of 12 submarines moored in Riga for $60 per tonne. The same firm bought an additional six submarines from Liepaja for $85 [per tonne]. The deadline for the contract expired on 31 December, while we are back where we started.

[Shcheblykin] Why did the deal fail?

[Bogorubov] The Latvian businessmen fell victim to the laws of their country, adopted after the agreement had been concluded. The export duty soared to 300 percent. "Spero" representatives began to seek lower prices. While the new prices were being coordinated with Moscow, time expired and the deal came to a deadlock.

[Shcheblykin] Russian troops will leave the Baltic states this year. What will be the fate of the property left in Latvia and Estonia?

[Bogorubov] This issue also requires the signing of an agreement on the interstate level. It will be impossible to ship all the property before the troops are pulled out. We will need at least two more years. A year and a half ago, we suggested holding another "Tallinn march" and redeploying all the obsolete ships from the Baltics to Russia. However, the fleet command did not find it possible to undertake such step at that time. We are now examining the possibility to sell the ships here.

[Shcheblykin] What were the results of your work in 1993? What are you planning to accomplish in 1994?

[Bogorubov] In 1993, we planned to sell 21 vessels with an aggregate displacement of 32,000 tonnes. In 1994, we are going to sell 11 more vessels with an aggregate displacement of 16,500 tonnes. As a result of storms raging in the Baltic Sea, 13 ships sank at the beginning of 1993. Some contracts were wrecked. Yet, we managed to sell 19 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 3,222 tonnes for $100,000. However, we have no information confirming that the fleet has received the envisioned 60 percent of the sum.

We have also signed a contract with a U.S. company that wants to purchase two large personnel landing craft removed from combat duty: one from the Northern Fleet and our "Krasnaya Presnya." They were appraised at $1.5 million a piece. The Americans never showed up and the deal was also disrupted. There are many offers but not all of them are implemented. To some extent this is because the Defense Ministry Central Management for Material Resources and Foreign Economic Relations, when fixing the prices for ships, does not take into account regional peculiarities. Today, we are not the only organization in the Baltic region trading in obsolete ships. The trawler fleet, the merchant fleet, and other organizations are offering ships for sale. Civil organizations fix prices that are much lower than ours.

[Shcheblykin] As we know, prices for scrapped metal are much higher than for ships. Is this kind of commerce profitable?

[Bogorubov] Of course it would be much more comfortable to scrap ships here and then sell the scrap abroad. This would increase the price several times. However, just as almost anywhere else in Europe, there is no facility for scrapping ships here. The scrapping of ships is a very labor-intensive and ecologically harmful process. Such a plant used to operate in Spain, but it went bankrupt and closed down.

A step has been made to create our own scrapping facility in Baltiysk. If it started operating, the Baltiysk zone would be practically free of sunken, half-sunken, and obsolete ships which are still afloat. We would be able to scrap all types of ships. The fleet would greatly benefit from this.

New Version of Sukhoi Fighter Aircraft

PM2104110294 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 21 Apr 94 p 11

[Peter Almond article: "Russia Develops New Fighter Aircraft With Sting in its Tail"]

[Text] Russia is developing a fighter aircraft with the unique ability to shoot missiles backwards, according to Jane's Defence Weekly. The sting in the tail is in Sukhoi's latest ground attack fighter, the Su-34, a development of the Su-27. A fighter version of the plane, the SU- 35, which is now being developed, is set to become one of the world's most capable fighters and is the aircraft the RAF's [Royal Air Force] new Eurofighter was designed to beat. Neither Eurofighter nor America's still-developing fighter, the F- 22, has a rear firing capability. Mr John Taylor, editor of Jane's All the World's Aircraft, said last night: "It would probably make life more difficult for Eurofighter. It makes it more difficult to attack." The missile was stated by the magazine to be a standard R- 73 air-to-air infra-red missile, a development of the AA-11 " Archer" . According to the Russian missile design bureau Vympel, a rear-facing tracking or acquisition radar sensor on a long aft "tail" picks up an approaching aircraft and warns the two-man crew to prepare to fire. The missile is on a wing rail and can be rotated backwards. Mr Taylor said it is then released and its rocket motor fires away from the aircraft. The radar guides it automatically to the target up to eight I miles away. Vympel claims the missile can be fired in supersonic flight.

Mr Taylor said rear-facing radars have been in place on Russian. bombers for some time and the idea of firing a missile backwards has been researched by western air forces.

The main reason British and American air force officials are not worried for their new aircraft is that both are designed to fire the medium-range Amraam missile, which can detect the Su-34 long before entering its radar vision. "A rear-facing missile might give problems if you want to get close but Amraam lets us fire from 20, miles away or more, long before the other guy knows we're even there," said a US air force spokesman at the Pentagon.

Economic Issues

Government Approves 1994 Social Policy Guidelines

LD2104125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1214 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 21 TASS—The Russian Government defined as the main goal of its social policy for 1994 "stabilisation of living standards of Russian people with their subsequent improvement as the economy develops". This goal was formulated in the social policy guidelines of the Russian Government for 1994, a document which was adopted by the Presidium of the Russian Government at its meeting on Thursday.

The document stresses that "The Russian Government is guided by the premise that a fruitful and balanced social policy is a necessary condition to continue reforms, to consolidate their social basis and to improve the social and political situation in the country".

The main directions of the social policy for 1994 provide for creating economic and legal conditions which will stimulate the able-bodied part of society to ensure its well-being with highly productive labour. They also provide for supporting optimum correlation between the incomes of the able-bodied part of population and disabled citizens, for ensuring the main social guarantees and for preventing mass unemployment.

To realise these aims in 1994, the government plans to concentrate on preventing a drop in real cash incomes of population, ensuring a weighted balance of economic interests and material possibilities of hired labour, businessmen and disabled citizens as well as reforming the public health and public education systems, culture and housing. The government will also concentrate on creating new jobs for population and stepping up work to retrain labour.

Yeltsin on Current Inflation Rate, IMF Credits

LD2004192594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1536 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—The current rate of inflation in Russia at about 8-10 per cent a month opens up prospects for credits from the International Monetary Fund, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said. Speaking at a meeting with the heads of regional administrations in Moscow on Wednesday, Yeltsin said that "in April the IMF will allocate Russia 1.5 billion dollars" if the current level of inflation is maintained. If the economic situation improves, Russia may count on another 5-7 billion U.S. dollars in the future, he added.

The president stressed that "the current level of inflation in Russia is the lowest in the CIS." It almost meets the target figures, although May and June will be difficult, he said. Yeltsin stressed that the government is now working on a draft budget for 1995 and will submit it to the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian Parliament, in September 1994.

Yeltsin Greets Moscow Bankers' Conference

LD2104083494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Yeltsin has sent greetings to the congress of the Association of Russian Banks, which opened in Moscow today. The greetings say: Russia's economy needs an effective payments system, more active involvement of commercial banks in investment projects, expansion of the banking services sector, and an improvement in quality. We believe that these issues will be a topic for professional debate at your congress. The president wished the congress productive work.

Gaydar: Crucial Phase of Crisis Passed

LD2004180794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1548 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Belyakov]

[Text] Samara April 20 TASS—There has been considerable progress in reforms in Russia lately, according to Russia's choice leader Yegor Gaydar. Meeting journalists in Samara, Volga region, on Wednesday, Gaydar said "we have already passed the most crucial phase of the crisis. However, we have yet to do the most important—assemble mechanisms which could allow the economy not only to survive, but also to develop and grow."

Gaydar is in Samara to see if his idea of presidential party has chances of success in Russian regions. He believes it should not be entirely presidential, but must support the president so that he could count on it. The new party will be seeking to reduce budget expenditures, curb inflation, protect the rights of owners and carry out a reasonable tax policy. Gaydar confirmed that his party will move from rhetoric to action and is ready to bear responsibility for all decisions, including unpopular ones.

"The present tax rates make economic growth impossible. Cuts in budget expenditures are vital for changing the tax policy. They should be reduced by means of gradual reforms, primarily in the military sphere," Gaydar noted. "We cannot keep the army which in its present form is absolutely incapable and absurdly expensive," he added.

In his view, entrepreneurs, the intelligentsia and farmers who were considered "kulaks" in the Soviet past will make up the bulk of the new party. It will support itself by levying membership fees and receiving donations from commercial structures that understand the significance of the new party and are ready to invest in politics.

Shokhin: Economic Changes Need Private Investment

LD2004195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1729 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—"Radical changes in the Russian economy will take place only alongside the influx of private investments, rather than credits from international financial organisations," said Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin at a meeting with journalists on Wednesday. The news conference was devoted to international economic cooperation and investments into Russian economy.

According to the vice-premier, the International Monetary Fund is practically prepared to grant Russia the second part of a three- billion "system credit." At a session of the board of IMF managers opening in Washington this week preparations will be launched for granting a standard credit worth 4 billion dollars, Shokhin said.

In his opinion, an annual session of EBRD managers held in St. Petersburg last week showed a high level of Russia's interaction with Western partners. He pointed out that Russia would like to attract more private investments for the development of the oil and gas sector. The government is prepared to accept such investments on privileged terms, he said. For instance, the value added tax, which caused great concern of foreign and domestic investors, has been practically lifted from foreign investments into Russia, Shokhin said.

Until recently, Russian enterprises had to pay a lot of money to the state for equipment it imported from abroad. Now, as soon as the equipment is installed, the whole amount of tax levied on the equipment will be returned. As for the imports of material and monetary means for the formation of the fixed stock, they are exempt from taxes altogether, Shokhin said.

The government does not forget potential domestic investors, the vice-premier said. At present, the government is working out a plan of making a bigger number of attractive enterprises available for privatisation after a voucher stage is over than their original number offered for privatisation. On the other hand, stable inflation rates reached by the government will inevitably bring about the reduction of bank interest rates, which is a major condition for encouraging investments into industry, Shokhin said.

Gerashchenko: Bank Restrictions May Be Lifted

MK2004113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Restrictions on Foreign Banks' Activity May Be Lifted"]

[Text] Viktor Gerashchenko has said that currently "options are being contemplated to lift restrictions on the activity of foreign banks in Russia imposed by edict in fall 1993," and he hopes that this decision may apply not only to banks that already had licenses to carry out operations in Russia by the time the edict was passed. A spokesman for a large Western bank has confirmed that during bilateral meetings Russian officials also mentioned the possibility of lifting restrictions on the activity of foreign banks in Russia in the very near future. Informed Russian sources have also reported that a bill on the subject may be submitted to the parliament as early as the end of April.

Bank To Take Control of Currency Operations

LD2004215394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Robert Serebrennikov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Russia's Central Bank developed a working programme to gradually take control over operations with hard currency effected by resident and non-resident entrepreneurs operating in Russia.

According to materials released by the parliamentary committee for economic policy, this programme provides for working out appropriate standard acts to control first hard currency proceeds and then import and barter deals, export and import of services, as well as movement of capital.

The programme envisages tough sanctions up to non-acceptance exaction of funds from the banks guilty of incorrect and untimely settlements as concerns the compulsory re-sale to the state of part of their hard currency earnings.

To make the activities of currency control bodies more effective, the Central Bank suggests strengthening the legislative basis, specifically taking legal actions against those accused of violations in the currency sphere, specifying certain provisions of the law on currency regulation and control, to pass legislative acts allowing to sign and ratify international agreements on currency issues.

The programme also proposes building a database of all foreign trade shipments and payments on the basis of the Russian State Customs Committee's computer centre in order to check information on money and goods movement. This will make it possible to reveal cases of underestimated export prices and overestimated import prices.

Firms Avoid Bank Currency Restrictions

PM2004170994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Report by Vladimir Kucherenko: "Central Bank Turns the Screws"]

[Text] The Central Bank of Russia's Moscow department reports that in March another three banks acquired currency licenses.

"Alternativa," "Moskva," and "Baltiya" received so-called domestic licenses. That is, the licenses which give the right to engage in freely convertible currency operations on Russian territory. And "Lantabank" has acquired an expanded license which also enables it to establish agent relations with six foreign counterparts.

Unfortunately, punitive sanctions have had to be applied to violators of the procedure. As of 1 April the Central Bank main administration for Moscow suspended for a month the right of some banks to buy and sell currency using their own funds. They include the "Eastern-European Investment Bank," the "Credit-Consensus," "Progress-bank," and "Russian joint-stock commercial bank."

Their sin is to have engaged in buying and selling in violation of the limit set by the Moscow administration. And now, if these institutions intend to disobey the ban through 1 May, deals involving them will be deemed invalid and the funds they obtain in such operations will go into the state revenue. Which accords with article 14 of the Russian law "on currency regulation and currency control." But clients of the guilty banks may rest assured—the penalized banks have the right to buy and sell dollars and marks on instructions from their clients.

As we can see, the Central Bank seriously intends to introduce order in the currency operations of its subordinates—the commercial banks. But let us not forget that alongside them firms are alive and well which are merrily dealing in freely convertible currency without any banking licenses, without obeying the Central Bank of Russia, and spitting on its endeavors. They have not been assigned any of the quotas and rules which the Central Bank sets for its own "vassals." The Central Bank of Russia cannot take nonexistent permits away from them or block their accounts, to which sanction any refractory and undisciplined commercial bank is inexorably subject. As we were told by Central Bank of Russia spokesman A. Sitnin, all that can be done is to send letters to the prosecutor's office and the tax service.

So far this has produced no results. And the bankers' dissatisfaction is therefore inevitable: "Why are we being punished and not them?" So that in this delicate sphere, a highly explosive one for the economy, no consolidation of statehood can yet be seen.

Decree Clarifies Edict on Taxation, Pay

PM2004160594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 336, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin and dated 15 April 1994: "On the Procedure for Determining in 1994 the Regulated Amount of Expenditure on the Remuneration of Workers at Enterprises and Organizations"]

[Text] In execution of Paragraph 3 of Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 2270 of 22 December 1993 "On Certain Changes to Taxation and the Relationship Between Budgets at Different Levels," the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. It shall be laid down that in 1994 the regulated amount of expenditure on remuneration at enterprises and organizations shall be determined on the basis of the actual average monthly pay of workers included in the prime cost of the output, operations, or services (but not more than six times the minimum monthly wage laid down in

the Russian Federation), and on the basis of the actual average number of workers employed. And this number includes workers who are part of the staff (including those doing more than one job), as well as those not on the staff (working under subcontract or other civil-law contracts).

The regulated amount of expenditure on remuneration is being increased by the payments laid down by Russian Federation legislation (within the set norms), which are determined by: rayon regulation of pay; the pay value of collective catering provided free to members of seagoing and river vessels, air traffic controllers and members of air detachment crews, and seagoing members of the fishing fleet; the pay value of official clothing and uniforms issued free of charge; expenditure on the upkeep of servicemen and both rank-and-file employees and senior staff at internal affairs organs envisaged by the Russian Federation laws "On the Status of Servicemen" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, No. 6, 1993, page 188) and "On Institutions and Organs Implementing Criminal Punishment in the Form of Imprisonment" (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, No. 33, 1993, page 1316) as regards that portion of the pay that has a bearing on prime cost of output, operations, and services as part of the labor remuneration fund; payment for travel to and from vacation areas for workers at enterprises and organizations located in regions of the Far North, equivalent areas, and remote parts of the Far East; supplementary payments for intinerant work and work involving travel; payments for work carried out by duty tour and for field work; payments from the federal budget for forming labor remuneration funds at enterprises and organizations undergoing conversion; payments to mothers (or other relatives who actually look after a child) who have been hired by enterprises and organizations irrespective of their form of ownership and who are enjoying child-care leave in accordance with Russian Federation legislation until the child attains the age of three.

2. It shall be laid down that the procedure for determining the regulated amount of expenditure on workers' remuneration stipulated in this decree shall cover all enterprises and organizations irrespective of the results of their activity or the existence of concessions on taxable profits (including exemption from profits tax), including enterprises wholly owned by foreign investors.
[Signed] Russian Federation Premier V. Chernomyrdin
[Dated] Moscow, 15 April 1994
No. 336

Investments in Oil, Gas Industries Sought

LD2004214994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Before the end of the year, Russia is likely to have a law on oil and gas and another three or four legislative acts designed to attract foreign investments into the country's oil and gas industry, said Deputy Energy Minister Anatoliy Shatalov.

He told the Oil and Gas '94 international conference in Moscow on Wednesday that, in addition, Russia is shortly due to join the European Energy Charter Treaty, which would provide more favorable conditions for foreign investors. He said Russian President Boris Yeltsin's December decree entitling Russian and foreign businesses investing in the exploration and development of mineral deposits to part of the minerals extracted from them made it possible to embark on major oil and gas projects.

One of such projects is Sakhalin 1, Shatalov said. He said the Russian Economics and Environmental Protection Ministries would soon consider the project and that a contract on it would be signed before the end of the year. Another project is soon due to be launched, Sakhalin 2, to be handled by the MMMSM international consortium, Shatalov said.

Output-sharing agreements will also be signed with foreign firms which are to work deposits in the Timan-Pechora oil and gas province encompassing parts of northwestern Russia's Komi Republic and Arkhangelsk Region.

Apart from that, Russia's Energy Ministry and the administrations of the country's Volgograd and Saratov Regions by May 20 are due to finish talks with the French company Elf Aquitane on developing oil and gas deposits in the two regions.

Russians Holding 10-15 Million U.S. Dollars

LD2004202594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Speaking today at the pariamentary hearings on the country's foreign economic activities, Viktor Melnikov, head of the Main Directorate for Currency Regulations of the Russian Central Bank, quoted some interesting figures. According to Melnikov, at present Russian citizens have on their hands between 10 and 15 million U.S. dollars in cash, the purchasing power of which exceeds that of the total cash in rubles currently in circulation. Melnikov said that some of the reasons for such wealth of the Russians are illegal currency operations, tax evasion, and ever-increasing quantities of counterfeit dollars in circulation.

Late Credits Complicates Grain Situation

PM2004152194 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Yelena Berezneva article: "A Glimpse at the Situation: Diary of an Underwater Seed Drill"]

[Text] Whichever way you look at it, credits were well timed for those inundated by flood waters. Literally just a few days ago, financial support reached Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts. But given that a floating seed drill has yet to be invented, agricultural workers in these oblasts got the chance both to purchase seeds and also to bring in fuel before going out into the fields. Not that you would envy the Volgograders: Around 600 square kilometers of territory have been flooded, and 65,000 hectares of agricultural land are under water. According to preliminary data, flood damage in the oblast will come to over 19 billion rubles [R]. If due account is taken of the fact that the flood is only expected to peak after 25 April, the sowing campaign there will be seriously delayed, which in itself will affect the harvest.

As at 15 April in Saratov Oblast, over 100 centers of population, dozens of bridges, many kilometers of road and power transmission lines, and thousands of hectares of agricultural land were flooded. Something in the region of R15 billion will be required to make good what has been affected by the flooding.

Perhaps only in the Kuban did the sowing campaign begin on time. Krasnodar Kray's farmers waited expectantly for the financial support promised by the state, but it reached them when the winter crops had already been undersown and resown, and when sunflower seeds were already in the furrow—in short, the hard graft was already virtually completed. Had it not been for the kray administration's declaring a state of emergency, ruling that agricultural enterprises be sent resources and materials essential to the sowing campaign without payment up front, it is unlikely that the grain growers would have gone out into the field.

In Stavropol Kray, spring was roughly two weeks late arriving. Unlike previous years, its start according to the calendar was marked with snow and cold rains. Eventually, the weather relented, but Stavropol Kray's peasants went out into the field without any real enthusiasm, like their neighbors, and without waiting for the arrival of credits and other monies owed to them by the state for grain supplied last year. And as there were no funds, they had not prepared properly for the hardest period of work in the entire year: Machinery was overhauled less thoroughly than last year, crops were treated with half the planned amount of fertilizers. According to Yu. Ivanov, expert from the Kray Agricultural Administration, agrarians are particularly alarmed by the condition of winter crops—some 20 percent have already perished or thinned out drastically. And although the area devoted to grain in Stavropol Kray remains unchanged, the most optimistic forecasts anticipate obtaining just over 4 million tonnes of grain here—1 million down on last year.

Spring was also late in reaching the agricultural workers of the Don. The weather was cold, and alarming. In addition, small and large rivers alike burst their banks. But as our own correspondent A. Isayev reports, worse than any natural disaster was the shortage of fuel, fertilizers, and seed. Don villages were unable to purchase them on time for the usual reason: The state has yet to settle up for last year's grain.

Over 80 percent of Russian private farmers no longer rely on the state for help. Today, one-third of them are without fuel, seed, or machinery. A few have received credits in time for the sowing campaign, but under crushing interest rates of over 200 percent. Forecasts by the leadership of the Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives [AKKOR], which addressed journalists a few days ago, are depressing: 30 percent of the lands belonging to private farmers will be left unsown. And in the Central Urals, this figure is even higher—over 40 percent. As S. Teterin, chairman of the Association of Peasant Farms of this region, told us, 300 of the 3,500 Ural private farmers have declared themselves bankrupt, and very soon this number may double or even treble.

Today, field work is under way in the Northern Caucasus, in southern oblasts, in the Central Chernozem Region, and in some areas of the Volga Region, where seed drills have managed to "wade out" into the furrows. But the late spring, the flooding, and the shortage of equipment, fuel, fertilizer, and seed caused by there being no money, are preventing work from progressing at last year's pace as yet. For instance, only half the amount of winter crops were top-dressed. And the sowing of spring crops is 500,000 hectares behind schedule.

The Federation Council Committee for Agrarian Policy believes that "it is possible that the production of cereal crops in Russia will fall to 80 million tonnes" this year. This is 24 million tonnes fewer than the average for 1986 through 1990. At the very least, the production of sugar beet, sunflowers, and flax fiber will drop by 10 percent.

Last fall, the sown area for winter crops shrank by 3.3 million hectares (21 percent) compared to fall 1992. This means that spring crops will now have to be sown over an area 21 percent larger. Only 66 percent of the necessary fallow land was plowed in the fall. Therefore, this spring the workload per tractor increases by almost half. Meanwhile, machinery has been poorly prepared. There is no farm in Russia which will have managed to purchase all the necessary spare parts, or, more especially, to renew vehicle and tractor fleets.

So it is quite likely that grain production in the country will not hit even a modest 80 million tonnes. And, you know, it is not yet known how nature, which is not always generous with good weather, will behave. And it is not clear what state policy will be—a state where to this day reform is progressing without an agrarian program....

Incidentally, today in the Don (and not only there) silos are crammed with grain from last year and even the year before. Unclaimed by anyone, it sows gloomy thoughts in the minds of the sowers themselves: Is our work required at all? This year, as we know, there will be no compulsory grain deliveries. Some 600,000 tonnes of

grain will have to be surrendered to the Federal Fund of Rostov Oblast—this is significantly less than in the recent past. And the sower, who once puzzled over where to get fuel and spare parts, is now thinking about who will buy how much of his grain this fall. Or, indeed, will it be purchased at all?

Federal Assembly

Duma Adopts Peacekeeping Forces Law

PM2004092994 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 7

[Stanislav Kucher report: "Duma on Peace and Peacekeepers"]

[Text] The Russian Duma has adopted at first reading the draft of a new law on peacekeeping forces. In full the document's title runs: "On the Procedure for Offering Russian Federation Military and Civilian Personnel for Participation in Operations Aimed at Maintaining or Restoring International Peace and Security and Other Forms of Peacekeeping Activity."

This means that it is planned to incorporate a military contingent, that to say, "Russian peacekeepers," within the Russian Armed Forces. Effectively, we already have such forces (the 201st Divisiion in Tajikistan, battalions in the Dniester Region and Moldova).

The main bone of contention in the discussion of the draft law was the question of jurisdiction over the peacekeepers. The parliamentary defense committee thought that the contigent should be set up under the Ministry of Defense. Another proposal came from the Ministry for Civil Defense Affairs and Emergency Situations, which came to the Duma with a proposal that the peacekeeping forces be placed under its own jurisdiction "so as not to distract the Army from fulfilling functions not appropriate to it."

Zhirinovskiy Fails To Win Duma Post

LD2004193694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—Controversial leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy failed to make it to State Duma vice-presidency on Wednesday.

Four deputy chairmen of the Russian parliament's lower house were elected earlier, elections of the fifth one were held on Wednesday, but gave no result. Ten candidates were nominated for the vacant office in the beginning. Two of them withdrew their candidatures.

Zhirinovskiy and Artur Chilingarov, representative of the "New Regional Policy" faction, were at the head of the poll. However, none of them managed to win a majority of the total number of votes at the decisive run of the poll.

According to Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the parliament's lower house, Duma factions should now "hold (joint) consultations to specify when the elections of the fifth deputy chairman should be put on the agenda once more".

Duma Privatization Stalemate Boosts Chubays Plan

MK2004104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Yelena Kotelnikova report under the "Privatization Prospects" rubric: "State Duma Not Ready To Change Privatization Course"]

[Text] The hearings on the results of denationalization and the 1994 privatization program attended by deputies of both chambers of the Federal Assembly, which ended yesterday at the State Duma, have split the representative authority into "Chubays supporters," "Chubays opponents," those favoring the sale of state property at market prices, and those who oppose "the expansion of foreign capital." Evidently, the mutually exclusive nature of the proposals drawn up by the deputies can block any decision on privatization they might decide to make. This situation will enable the president to assume the key role in the drafting and implementation of denationalization policy.

The final day of the expanded hearings at the State Duma (KOMMERSANT-DAILY reported their beginning 13 April) enabled various political associations to present their views on privatization and its further prospects. As expected, privatization (as was the case with the Supreme Soviet) remains an apple of discord between the executive and representative branches. Unlike the government, which now knows for sure that further privatization should be carried out in favor of investment and "an effective owner," the deputies lacked a joint approach. Whereas Sergey Glazyev of the Democratic Party of Russia faction demanded a change in the policy of check privatization, which "has led us into a deadlock and a morass," Vladimir Martemyanov, representative of the Communist Party, opposed "the unprecedented sale of Russian enterprises to foreign capitalists." As an alternative, he proposes that denationalization be replaced with destatization, as a result of which the bulk of enterprises will be transferred into "collective ownership," and privatization will be limited "only to small enterprises."

Vladimir Lisichkin and Vyacheslav Marychev, representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], attempted in their addresses and statements from the audience to expose "the criminal nature" of privatization "according to Chubays." The main pathos of their pronouncements and recommendations was

designed to give reasons for the State Property Committee chairman's removal, particularly because "he has been tripping up the president." Driven by concern over the president, Mr. Marychev said that "the LDPR will not let Chubays out of Norilsk once he has left for it" (the deputy prime minister is going to Norilsk on a business trip).

Meanwhile, representatives of "Russia's Choice" backed the post- voucher privatization concept drawn up by the State Property Committee and proposed that the state intensify control over the management of state property and the state's share in denationalized enterprises. Although this stance did not draw support from representatives of other political organizations, Chubays (a "Russia's Choice" member) said that he was "content with the results of the hearings." The deputies' political ambitions make it impossible for them to control denationalization. This situation has strengthened Viktor Chernomyrdin, who, according to Chubays, "will not allow privatization to halt" (among other things, yesterday the prime minister signed the decree "On the Practice of Agricultural Changes in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast," approving the experience of land denationalization). Since the head of the cabinet has approved in general the post-voucher privatization concept aimed at involving "an effective owner" in economic development, the State Property Committee drafters see their chances to implement these plans increasing.

Government Promises Duma To Liberalize Trade

MK2004112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Kuznets report under the "Hearings" rubric: "Government Plans To Liberalize Foreign Trade Over Resistance of Deputies and Bureaucrats"]

[Text] At the State Duma hearings on foreign economic policy yesterday officials from the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry [FERM], the government staff, the Finance Ministry, and the Central Bank told the deputies about the state of affairs in the area of foreign trade. The FERM report called the introduction of higher import tariffs "a forced protectionist measure." The FERM expects that domestic producers will spend their profits on lowering production costs and raising the quality of goods in order gradually to achieve world standards in these indicators. As for the inflationary effect of the increase in import tariffs, the FERM said that the fiscal side to the new measure would "offset" the natural growth in the prices of goods, thus increasing budget revenues.

Along with import tariffs, export tariffs have also been imposed. However, they are "aimed at liberalizing exports." The FERM sees this step as a transition from state monopoly to free trade. By mid-1995 it is expected fully to abolish export quotas and licenses, the institution of special exporters, and other "non-economic" controls over the export of goods. As for the tariffs, they will become "the rein that the government will slowly loosen."

The result of the country's foreign economic activity in 1993 was a trade surplus of $16 billion. It is impossible to channel the entire amount to investment in production and so forth because one- third of it is spent on bringing into Russia foreign cash that ends up being kept by the population and banks as savings, and another third goes to service the foreign and domestic hard-currency debts.

Hard-currency earnings have also been hit by the release of Russian commodities onto the world market at dumping prices. Budget revenues have been dented by various foreign economic benefits granted to regions, sectors, and enterprises. In 1995 most benefits may be "suspended," while expenditures on centralized imports will be halted.

The general trend toward foreign trade liberalization will encounter resistance by domestic producers, however, who demand state protection and benefits, and will also meet open obstruction from government bureaucrats. For instance, Mr. Tsyplakov, government staff official dealing with foreign trade problems, said that "given the complete collapse of the economy it is a mistake for the state to give up its monopoly in foreign economic ties." Many deputies who attended the hearings yesterday shared his stance.

Duma Debates Export Quotas, Arms Control

MK2004103094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Dmitriy Kamin report in the "State Duma Hearings on Foreign Economic Activity" column: "Sergey Glazyev Wants To Take Control of Arms Export"]

[Text] The effectiveness of parliamentary hearings as a process in the search for solutions is close to zero so far, and yesterday's discussion in the Duma of foreign activity problems confirmed this. Nonetheless, the aspiration by Economic Policy Committee Chairman Sergey Glazyev to tighten up control of foreign economic activity caused concern of such exporters as the Rosvooruzheniye corporation: The firm refused to provide the hearing information about its activity.

The subject of arms export and related investment problems of the military industrial complex enterprises were discussed in camera, with the participation of general designers, and prior to that representatives of the government, Foreign Economic Relations, and Central Bank apparatuses briefed the deputies on the general state and prospects of foreign economic activity.

Ivan Materov, first deputy foreign economic relations minister, told the house that at present the government cannot make decisions on lifting export quotas because the insolvency of Russian consumers leaves them

without the requisite resources, which have not been sold abroad only because no export licenses have been granted. Materov, however, confirmed that from 1995 most of the quotas will be phased out. Sergey Tsyplakov, chief of the government apparatus' foreign economic activity department, motivated the need to lift export quotas by the fact that the current quota and license system encourages abuses: "In some export-related spheres things are running wild." The government apparatus representative expressed special concern over the growing disparity between Russian exporters' contractual prices and world prices. Mr. Tsyplakov closed his statement with the conclusion about the need to step up state control of foreign economic activity.

The participants also recognized as a priority the search for sources to repay Russia's foreign debt for which purpose it is proposed to use promissory note circulation and sell Russian state property (quite possibly, Petr Aven and Alfa-Bank will attend to this in the end).

According to information in KOMMERSANT-DAILY's possession, the Glazyev committee in the very near future is to submit to the Duma's consideration a number of bills on regulating foreign economic activity (On Foreign Economic Activity, On Changes to the Law on Foreign Investments in the RFSFR and Concession Contracts, and On Production-Sharing Arrangements) which envision a clear-cut separation of all functions of the federal power bodies in the sphere of foreign economic activity.

One of the indispensable elements of the future system is tough control of arms exports. According to information in KOMMERSANT-DAILY's possession, at yesterday's closed session Rosvooruzheniye's monopoly activity in this sphere received a rather negative assessment on the part of military industrial complex enterprise representatives who are unhappy with the distribution of incomes from the sale of their production. It is noteworthy that Sergey Glazyev regards the cadre and technological potential of these enterprises as the foundation for overcoming industrial decline in Russia.

Duma Adopts Criminal Code Amendments Law

LD2004162394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow April 20 TASS—A number of substantive amendments have been made to Russia's criminal code. They are needed to unify criminal liability for encroachment on all kinds of property, to enhance criminal liability for terrorism and contraband, to guarantee citizens' rights to necessary defence and more effective struggle against organised crime. Such is the essence of the federal law on amendments and supplements to the Russian criminal code and the Russian code of criminal procedure passed by the State Duma in the second reading on Wednesday.

A number of amendments have been made to the criminal code in connection with a radical change of the socio-political situation in Russia over the recent years. Thus, wordings such as "socialist property" are dropped from the criminal code. References to crimes against "state and public property" are eliminated. All forms of property become equal. For instance, an encroachment on an enterprise of any kind, regardless of the form of property, is qualified as banditry.

A new definition is given to such crimes as theft, robbery, plunder, fraud. The criminal code is supplemented with an article envisaging criminal liability for a failure to restore to Russia objects of artistic, historic or architectural value for Russian people if such a restoration is obligatory. Articles are introduced that envisage criminal responsibility for evading the payment of customs duties and for violating customs legislation. Separate articles envisages criminal liability for terrorism and for obstructing the discharge of duties by a procurator, an investigator or persons conducting an investigation.

During the debating of the draft law on Wednesday the deputies extended from 10 to 12 years the maximum term of imprisonment for a theft in a particularly large amount committed by organised groups or by particularly dangerous habitual criminals.

On an initiative of the faction of the Democratic Party of Russia, the criminal code was supplemented with two articles envisaging criminal liability for illegal transactions with foreign currency and for concealment or failure to remit sums in foreign currency.

Findings of Upper Chamber Hearings

PM2004150594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian Federation Federation Council Decree No. 97-I SF "On the Parliamentary Hearings 'The Fight Against Crime and the Strengthening of Law and Order in the Russian Federation'" signed by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko and dated 8 April 1994, followed by the findings of the hearings under the general heading: "The Fight Against Crime and the Strengthening of Law and Order in the Russian Federation"]

[Text] The Federation Council decrees that:

1. The assessment, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the findings of the parliamentary hearings "The Fight Against Crime and the Strengthening of Law and Order in the Russian Federation" (appended) shall be considered the official position of the Federation Council.

2. The aforesaid findings shall be sent to the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation Federal

Assembly State Duma, the Russian Federation Government, the Russian Federation Supreme Court, the Russian Federation Supreme Court of Arbitration, the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office, and legislative (representative) organs of Russian Federation components.

[Signed] V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

[Dated]Moscow, 8 April 1994

No. 97-I SF

In recent years the crime problem in the Russian Federation has sharply deteriorated. The scale of crime and its tendency to increase are dangerously deforming the course of reform and are posing a threat to the basic foundations of Russian statehood, constitutional legality, and citizens' security.

The level of crime has more than doubled compared with 1988. In 1993 there were 2.8 million recorded crimes, of which more than 500,000 were serious. These included almost 30,000 murders, 67,000 cases of grievous bodily harm, more than 200,000 robberies and muggings, and 22,500 crimes involving the use of firearms. Young people have been actively drawn into criminal activity. In 1993 224,000 crimes were committed by juveniles. Of particular concern is the growth in organized crime, which employs methods of criminal terror such as hostage-taking, blackmail, and others. Criminal formations are engaged in large-scale racketeering and drug trafficking, are striving to establish control over the banks, spheres of enterprise, and the distribution of material resources, and are linking up with corrupt elements in the state apparatus. Illegal exports of oil, raw materials, and metals have become unprecedentedly widespread. Violence and threats are increasingly employed against militia officers, investigators, prosecutors, judges, workers in financial, tax, and customs services, crime victims, witnesses, and citizens who help the law-enforcement organs.

The main reasons for the spread of crime lie in the critical state and instability of society, in the legal nihilism that grips power structures at all levels, in the lack of a crime-prevention system, and in the inadequate legal base, serious shortcomings in law-enforcement practice, and the low clear-up rate for serious crimes.

To a considerable extent the crime situation has gotten out of control. Statistics on crime and the reduction in its growth rate do not reflect the real state of affairs. The level of latent crime remains high. Many organs of power and administration at the center and at local level have opted out of the fight against crime and its prevention, deal with crime on a case-to-case basis, and fail to monitor the implementation of decisions that are reached.

Internal affairs organs, prosecutor's offices, the tax police, and the customs services are failing to put a resolute stop to criminal activities or to ensure that punishment is inescapable. Irresponsibility and complacency are shown by officials to the victims of crime, while the criminals are shown leniency. There is no proper reaction to a considerable number of reports of crimes and other breaches of the law. Unfounded refusals to institute criminal proceedings have become widespread, along with cases being halted or ended. Many dangerous crimes remain unsolved. As a result, citizens' faith in the authorities' ability to protect them is being undermined.

The crime situation and its demoralizing effect on all spheres of social life require the adoption of effective measures to change the situation and to ensure constant and unremitting attention to the crime problem by all organs of power and administration, the public, and the mass media.

The curbing of aggressive and violent crime, the fundamental enhancement of the standard of all work to prevent and curtail manifestations of crime, and the strengthening of public order are urgent tasks.

The strengthening of statehood, the striving for stabilization in political, economic, social, and spiritual spheres of society's life, and consideration of crime factors when implementing reform should be the abiding conditions for achieving real results.

At the same time, all the measures that are being taken should be based on strict observance of legality and the norms of international law.

Particular attention should be focused on improving the legal base and law-enforcement practice, on upgrading the level of law-enforcement organs' activity, and on involving all of society's healthy forces in the fight against crime.

It is necessary to learn lessons and draw conclusions from the shortcomings and mistakes in crime policy and lawmaking activity. The participants in the parliamentary hearings believe that the process of adopting laws suffers from serious drawbacks and is not in line with practical requirements. Draft laws are often elaborated without the participation of or without consideration of the opinion of those departments which will have to implement the law, and there is a lack of expert criminological appraisal of draft laws. Legislators, the Russian Federation president's apparatus, and the Russian Federation Government in many instances operate in an uncoordinated way and duplicate the same draft laws. Russian Federation presidential edicts and Russian Federation Government normative acts do not always meet the requirements of legislation and the principle of the separation of powers. Many obsolete legal norms are still in existence, and issues that are very necessary for stepping up the fight against crime in its most important areas do not receive legislative solutions.

The existing Criminal Code does not envisage criminal law measures for a whole number of dangerous activities

that have become widespread. Legislation has not reinforced responsibility for the different types of organized crime, terrorism, and the creation of illegal armed formations.

The lack of legal norms envisaging responsibility for dummy companies, sham bankruptcies, the "laundering" of criminal income, and other abuses is creating considerable difficulties in countering the black economy.

Stepping up the fight against corruption will require the speediest legislative resolution of questions of responsibility for crimes committed by civil servants and officials at economic entities.

Law-enforcement and control organs have limited access to the documents and materials they require.

There is no reliable legal protection for victims, witnesses, and citizens who help the investigation and the courts, or for law-enforcement workers against criminal violence and threats.

Certain norms relating to the execution of criminal legislation do not conform with the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution, international acts on human rights, and the tasks and goals of criminal punishment.

Prisons are in a very serious condition, particularly in material terms. Unless the necessary measures are urgently taken these institutions will be unable to fulfill their role at all.

The Convention on Legal Aid and Legal Relations in Civil, Family, and Criminal Cases, which was signed by the CIS heads of state, has not been ratified for more than a year. Owing to the sluggishness of the Russian Justice and Foreign Ministries, the question of elaborating and concluding bilateral treaties on these issues with other states has not been resolved. The Russian Federation has still not acceded to European conventions on reciprocal legal aid, extradition, the "laundering" of criminal income, and a number of others.

The questions of ensuring legality and public order, of preventing lawbreaking, and of protecting citizens' property, rights, and freedoms are not properly reflected in the activity of the Russian Federation Government and executive organs in Russian Federation components.

The federal and other executive organs' lack of a centralized system for collecting and analyzing information on the crime situation and the observance of legality prevents a proper assessment of the situation from being made and the necessary measures from being taken in good time. The help provided to organs of local self-government and public associations is patently inadequate. The state of legal services at enterprises, institutions, and organizations, the auditing apparatus, and expert institutions prevents cases of violations of the law and abuses from being revealed in good time and often negates all the efforts made to expose criminals.

Cadre, financial, material, and technical provision for law-enforcement and state control organs lags behind practical requirements.

Social guarantees for workers directly involved in the fight against crime are inadequate. Many of them do not have the necessary housing and everyday conditions.

Unjustified reorganizations and the lack of a careful approach to cadres have led to their lacking any confidence in the future, and have considerably weakened the operational investigation apparatus. A considerable number of skilled staffers have left over the past few years.

Many militia workers and one in four investigative apparatus staffers at internal affairs organs do not have any legal education. The situation with cadres in the Prosecutor's Office remains serious. Higher and secondary legal educational establishments are failing to train enough specialists for law-enforcement organs. The neglect of this problem is making it harder to create highly professional apparatuses and is having a negative impact on activity to strengthen law and order and to fight crime.

Attempts are being made to reform the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office in the absence of an integrated concept for prosecutorial oversight. The desire to politicize Prosecutor's Office organs is doing a great deal of damage.

The Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office has amassed the necessary experience of cooperation and collaboration with all branches of state power and other law-enforcement and control organs—consequently, the proposals to make the Prosecutor's Office responsible for coordinating the activities of law-enforcement organs should be supported. At the same time, the attention of the Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office should be drawn to its inadequate organizational role in leading the organs under its jurisdiction.

The fight against crime is being affected by shortcomings in the implementation of judicial reform. Certain provisions of the concept for judicial reform do not correspond to the realities of life.

Citizens are justifiably angry about red tape, repeated instances of dangerous criminals being released from custody, and other serious mistakes in judicial activity.

On the basis of Article 82 of the Standing Orders of the Federation Council, First Convocation, the participants in the parliamentary hearings consider it necessary:

to recognize that the crime situation in the Russian Federation threatens the main foundations of Russian statehood, constitutional legality, and citizens' safety;

to speedily adopt a federal program to step up the fight against crime in 1994-1995, and to prepare regional programs on that basis;

to examine as a priority draft laws aimed at protecting citizens' constitutional rights against criminal infringement, and at opposing organized and violent crime. The priority draft laws should be the following: on amendments and additions to the RSFSR Criminal Code, the RSFSR Code of Criminal Procedure, and the RSFSR Code on Administrative Violations; on the fight against organized crime; on the fight against corruption; on the protection of witnesses, victims, and other persons assisting criminal proceedings; on state protection for judges and workers in law-enforcement and control organs; on the military militia (police) in the Russian Federation Armed Forces; and on the holding in custody of people suspected of and charged with crimes;

to take measures to step up the role of executive organs and officials in crime prevention, the creation of effective mechanisms for monitoring their implementation of Russian Federation presidential edicts and their own decisions, and the strengthening of legal and auditing services and expert institutions; to set up at federal and regional level a system for coordinating the fight against crime, and to define within it the role and functions of executive organs in Russian Federation components and organs of local self-government;

to examine the financing of crime-fighting programs as priority issues when drawing up and ratifying the federal budget, the budgets of Russian Federation components, and local budgets;

to draw the attention of the leaders of law-enforcement and control organs to existing serious shortcomings in the fight against crime—particularly in curtailing organized, armed crime and corruption, to the state of economic security and the protection of the consumer market, and to the activity of institutions from the criminal-law implementation system; to the need to improve the demands made on subordinate subunits in safeguarding citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, and to adopt emergency measures to enhance the effective functioning of the entire law-enforcement system.

The participants in the parliamentary hearings call on the mass media and their editorial colleagues and journalists to comprehensively and objectively cover the problems of the fight against crime, to actively reveal the causes of negative phenomena, to promote the formation in the population of respect for the law, and to enhance the prestige of staffers at law-enforcement organs.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Orders Power-Sharing Talks With Chechnya

PM2104095394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Untitled Directive No. 189-rp of the Russian Federation President, dated 15 April 1994 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] Based on the need for the political regulation of relations between federal organs of state power and Republic of Chechnya organs of state power:

1. The Russian Federation Government is to hold consultations with representatives of organs of state power and all Chechen Republic political movements with the aim of getting out of the sociopolitical situation that has developed, and on their basis is to prepare a draft treaty on delimiting areas of control between federal organs of state power and Chechen Republic organs of state power and on the reciprocal delegation of powers.

2. The Russian Federation President's Administration and leaders of federal organs of state power are to give the necessary assistance in holding the consultations referred to in paragraph 1 of this directive.
[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
[Dated] 15 April 1994

Lozovoy on Talks

LD2004215294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The third round of talks between the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia Akhsarbek Galazov and Ruslan Aushev will be decisive, head of the temporary administration in the state of emergency zone Vladimir Lozovoy said in an interview with Interfax in Nazran.

The leaders of the two neighboring republics are expected to meet in the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria, Nalchik, next week. At the previous round of talks the two sides agreed only on the preamble to the treaty on the implementation of the Russian president's decree on the return of refugees and forced migrants in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

"If this time talks bring no concrete results, there is no sense in wasting time further," Lozovoy believes. In his opinion, the Russian Security Council and the Federal Assembly will then have "to clearly indicate what the temporary administration and the presidents of both republics should do." Lozovoy noted that he had established normal working contacts with Galazov and Aushev. But in resolving problems he adheres only to the policy of the center. "Precisely from this position I would like to state that all of us should work for the sake of accord in Russia," Lozovoy said.

Aushev Urges Settlement

LD2004215594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ingush President Ruslan Aushev called on Russian President Boris Yeltsin to take efficient measures to stabilize the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. Aushev has sent an open letter to Yeltsin emphasizing that the decisions by the Russian leadership on normalization of the situation and return of refugees and displaced persons to their permanent residences are not being implemented. The state of emergency in the

conflict zone has continued for two years already and more than 60,000 refugees cannot return to North Ossetia.

Aushev said the Moscow talks between the North Ossetian and Ingush delegations had brought practically no results. He suggested that any further delay in implementation of the Russian president's decree on refugees and displaced persons issued on December 13, 1993, could trigger off unpredictable consequences.

Aushev addressed the Russian president as the guarantee for human rights in Russia to use all his power in order to prevent new inter-ethnic conflicts in North Caucuses.

Chechens Concerned on Moscow Contacts

LD2004171794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] At a meeting in the office of the Chechen President Dhozkhar Dudayev on Tuesday a letter sent by Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray was discussed. It was allegedly submitted to the State Duma marked "Confidential". The 12-page document contains recommendations to the Russian leadership regarding the tactics and strategy in the resolution of the Chechen problem.

The Chechen presidential office told Interfax that Shakhray recommended that in the settlement of the Russian-Chechen relations, the main stakes should be made on political forces opposing Dudayev.

"This is another sign that Russian diplomacy is not in control of the situation," a high-ranking official of the Chechen presidential staff pointed out. In his opinion, the Russian leadership is currently trying to reanimate supporters of the former first secretary of the Chechen-Ingush Regional Committee Doka Zavgayev who was dismissed from this post in 1991 and is now living in Moscow.

At a conference in Groznyy the Security Department submitted a document to the Chechen president, saying that Shakhray maintains close relations with the Chechen opposition.

Chechen Leader Criticizes Dudayev

LD2004225294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1631 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Groznyy, 20 Apr—Any talks or consultations with Russia should only be held by persons who have the authorization of the people to do so, Yaragi Mamodayev, head of the Government of National Trust of Chechnya, believes. In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today, he said that "it is necessary to hold a congress of the Chechen people in the near future to work out the basic criteria for solving the problem of Russian-Chechen inter-relations."

In the words of Yaragi Mamodayev, the government he leads has already begun preparing this forum. Consultations with the chairman of Chechnya's Constitutional Court, well-known public and religious figures, and representatives of various political bodies have been held. I would like it to be understood in Moscow, Yaragi Mamodayev said, that Dhozkhar Dudayev's unjustified postponement of the beginning of the Russian-Chechen talks does not reflect the position of the whole of Chechen society. A people's congress needs to be held to work out this position.

Yaragi Mamodayev again pointed out that open appeals by the Russian side to forces opposing Dhozkhar Dudayev risked aggravating the political split in Chechnya and could become an obstacle in the negotiating process. Yaragi Mamodayev distances himself from the opposition, explaining that he was appointed head of government by the legal Chechen Parliament in April of last year and therefore, represents the legitimate executive power in the republic.

Yaragi Mamodayev believes that the Russian leadership should have determined at the outset which authorities in Chechnya it considered legal and only then should it have begun any talks or consultations.

Interior Ministry Soldier Killed in N. Ossetia

LD2104123694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1149 GMT 21 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, April 21 (TASS)—A soldier of the Russian Interior Ministry troops was killed early in the morning today in the state of emergency zone of North Ossetia. A special-duty squad was blasted with fire by a group of armed people near the Volchiya mountain at 05.30 today, Andrey Rodnov, spokesman for the press service of the task force of the North Caucasian Interior Ministry district, told ITAR-TASS from Vladikavkaz. The squad was on duty near the villages of Sunzha and Kamgaron of the Prigorodniy District, where a number of civilians were killed by bandit groups recently and where the provisional administration decided to toughen security measures.

It is supposed that the bandits were laying mines on the road. Shooting started, in the course of which the soldier was killed. The bandits disappeared. The provisional administration set up a commission for investigating the incident.

According to the information released by commander of the Russian Interior Ministry troops Colonel Anatoliy Kulikov, in 1993 areas of provisional deployment of army units and special-duty squads in the state of emergency area were fired at and attacked 126 times. As a result of it, seven people were killed and 133 wounded. This year 20 attacks were staged. Today's death of the Russian soldier is the first one this year.

The press servce of the Russian Interior Ministry troops is not disclosing the name of the soldier in order to avoid mistakes, until an official report comes from the command of the state of emergency area.

Ingush President Appoints New Deputy

LD2004221694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The press service of the president of Ingushetia has reported today that President Aushev has appointed a new deputy. He is Petr Kosov, first deputy ataman [warlord] of the Union of Cossacks of the Don Army region. According to INTERFAX, the new aide will become one of the main figures in coordinating the activities of the Cossacks in southern Russia and North Caucasian mountain republics.

Karachay-Cherkesia Defines Border With Georgia

PM2104083394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Border Definition Prepared"]

[Text] The Karachay-Cherkesia Land Resources Committee has prepared a definition of where the line of the state border between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Georgia runs on Republic of Karachay-Cherkesia territory for discussion at an official interstate level.

Karachay-Cherkesia and Georgia are neighbors. For many decades the border between them has been a symbolic line which nobody can guard, running along the inaccessible glacier heights of the Main Caucasian Range. But now, with the worsening crime threat and the increasing number of refugees and forced settlers, the problem of the border, which needs equipping, is being discussed by Karachay-Cherkesia as an especially urgent one, Oleg Dyba, the head of Karachay-Cherkesia's press secretary, noted in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

In order to further discuss and coordinate where and how the border with Georgia should be equipped, the Karachay-Cherkesia Council of Ministers has formed a special expert commission, taking part in whose work will be specialists of the Russian Federation Federal Border Service's "Cherkessk" First Independent Border Troops Komendantura and of the Republic of Karachay-Cherkesia State Committee for Geology and Mineral Utilization.

Paper Sues Petersburg Mayor Over Privatization

PM2004151594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Sergey Krayukhin report: "VECHERNIY PETERBURG Has Decided To Take Sobchak to Court"]

[Text] In the space of a week the dispute between the VECHERNIY PETERBURG editorial office and City Hall has become one of the most discussed topics on St. Petersburg radio and television, and in its press. The reason for this was Mayor A. Sobchak's directive No. 303-r "On the VECHERNIY PETERBURG Editorial Office," which some organs of the mass media have regarded as a all-out attack on the freedom of the press, while others have seen it as the authorities' natural and inalienable right. The VECHERNIY PETERBURG labor collective has decided to go to court to protest what, in editorial office's opinion, is an unjust verdict by the mayor.

At a specially convened press conference, VECHERNIY PETERBURG's Chief Editor V. Mayorov judged the appearance of directive 303-r to be a reaction by the authorities to a series of hard-hitting pieces in VECHERNIY PETERBURG which, in his opinion, gave rise to a desire in the powers that be to tame this recalcitrant publication. He regards as an illegal bureaucratic action the point in the directive in which the mayor gives instructions for a scheme to be produced by 15 April to privatize the newspaper VECHERNIY PETERBURG's property, stipulating that no less than 20 percent of the value of shares be made the property of St. Petersburg for a period of three years. Mayorov considers that if the state does have some right to VECHERNIY PETERBURG's property, it is to the closets and chairs from 1925 and the decrepit typewriters which it actually did supply to the editorial office once.

Many perplexing questions have been raised in the minds of VECHERNIY PETERBURG's editorial office by the point in the document signed by the mayor which talks about holding a "city-wide contest for the post of leader of the paper VECHERNIY PETERBURG's editorial office" in the period up to 15 May. Nobody can grasp what powers this "leader" has and why such a post is being established when there is at present a perfectly good chief editor elected by the labor collective, and this is regarded as an attempt by the mayor to make a resolute decision to move staff about in VECHERNIY PETERBURG.

But later at a press conference in the Smolnyy, D. Mezentsev, chairman of the city hall committee on the press and the mass media, explained in detail the city authorities' position. He reminded us that the idea of selling shares in newspaper enterprises came into being last fall at a meeting of editors of several St. Petersburg and central newspapers. The mayor's directive of 26 November fixed these views and ruling 303-r was issued to develop the idea privatizing St. Petersburg's newspapers. At the present time, the committee chairman emphasized, VECHERNIY PETERBURG's property and that of other publications in St. Petersburg belongs to the committee for managing municipal property—that is, it is 100 percent state property.

As concerns the city-wide contest for the post of VECHERNIY PETERBURG's leader, it is a question here of a managing director, a manager, and not at all of a chief editor.

Moscow Communists Examine Membership Losses

PM2004131494 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Ivan Boltovskiy report: "Between Two Slogans. Notes on the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Moscow Organization's Conference"]

[Text] In the past, everything that belonged to the capital was called excellent. Now this is no longer the case. And you cannot say this about the work of the party organization either.

The city party conference of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] was held last Saturday. Committee Chairman A. Shabanov gave a very sharp and clear-cut description of the situation in the country. He compared the city's Communists with the home guard thrown into the very hell of combat operations.

Hard as it has been, a lot has been done. Primary party associations have appeared and have at least started working, councils are operating—the intervuz [higher educational establishment] council and the council of leaders of enterprises; a discussion club is holding meetings, and scientific-practical conferences have been held. Of course there are the elections to the Duma. However, the party organization is not in the vanguard of events, it has not seized the initiative, it has not been able to act as the organizer of a mass movement. That, presumably, is one reason why it has lost around one-third of the Communists.

But here is the opinion of worker V. Sokolov, now a former member of the gorkom [city party committee].

"I have received 50,000 rubles since January, and I have four kids. The youngest is three months old, and my eldest daughter is 13. If we all perished, the party would not notice. An ordinary mortal does not exist for it"—these are harsh words.

But it is not an unfair complaint. The organization starts with comradeship. Now that enterprises are stopping and unemployment is growing, the need arises to create special funds for assistance to the needy, and the new gorkom should think about this.

V. Denisov, a representative of the Krasnopresnenskiy organization, tried to analyze the party's problems theoretically.

"We have lost Communists because certain party leaders have noticeably moved to the right," is his viewpoint. "This has manifested itself in the negation of the theory of class war, instead of which they are putting forward 'state patriotism.'"

There is a big difference between the slogans of national liberation on the basis of a broad patriotic front, and state patriotism. The former is a struggle, while the latter is time-serving. It must not be forgotten that the memorandum on accord, composed by the presidential team, also takes refuge in the idea of state patriotism.

The speakers were unanimous that the prevalence of debate in the life of party organizations is generated by the delay in adopting a party ideological program. The Russian conference must finalize things.

The ideological turmoil is rooted in the party's lack of an adequate social base. For example, over one-third of the Moscow organization is made up of employees of higher educational establishments, and the rest are engineering and technical personnel, and veterans. There are few workers.

A social base cannot be found unless it is not fought for. The party is unfortunately conducting very poor work in production labor collectives. There were 18 workers in the previous gorkom, and now there are 10. One was elected to the Russian conference. This too is an indicator. It is characteristic that the discussion of the working movement seemed to be conducted only at odd moments.

The most important result of the conference is the decision to strive for the unity of Communists and to join the SKP-CPSU [Union of Communist Parties—CPSU].

Protests Against Moscow-Petersburg Rail Link

PM2004104194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Candidate of Historical Sciences Vladimir Burov under the rubric "Reader's Comment:" "'Why Do We Need a New Construction Project of the Century?' Asks Candidate of Historical Sciences Vladimir Burov"]

[Text] There have been extremely few details given about the St. Petersburg-Moscow high-speed rail link. That is why the majority of us believe that the issue here concerns the modernization of the existing Oktyabrskaya Railroad. This is a great error! The high-speed rail link is set to pass through conservation areas in Novgorod and Tver oblasts and the Moscow region.

The high-speed rail link will be protected on both sides of the track by a three-meter concrete screen—a variation on the theme of the Great Wall of China. The territory of Russia's historic heartland will be divided in two although admittedly there will be some small crossing points for pedestrians and traffic. A fast highway and power lines will run alongside the high-speed track. In the conservation areas the no-go zone will be several hundred meters across. To that it should be added that according to the planners' scheme the route itself will become the axis for the formation of a megalopolis. In their fevered minds they have the idea (and it is being

studied!) of creating a "two-headed capital city" on these ecologically fragile lands. The rapid development of these lands between St. Petersburg and Moscow will have unpredictable consequences—an ecological and cultural catastrophe.

Hundreds of hectares of plowland, meadows, and forests and archeological monuments will be destroyed by the scoops of the excavators at this construction project of the century. The special levees that will be built will upset this unique region's hydrology. This is the watershed of the Volga-Baltic water system. The blow will be struck at its "solar plexus." All these factors would be highlighted by an ecological expert appraisal but one has not been held and the construction workers are already prepared to begin work.

At the local level in the oblasts and rayons there is a mounting protest from the population, scientists, and ecologists against the barbaric destruction of nature, archeological monuments, and the historical and cultural landscape. Individual rayons have withheld their consent to the laying of the track across their lands. The Russian Federation Committee for Land Resources and Land Management responded to that by issuing order no. 62 of 22 December 1993 confiscating lands in the designated area along the entire route from St. Petersburg to Moscow for federal needs under the high-speed rail construction program.

At a session of the State Extradepartmental Expert Review Council of the Russian Main Administration for State Expert Review of Designs and Budget Estimates for Construction Work on 25 February an alternative to the high-speed rail link—the modernization of the Oktyabrskaya and Savelovskaya railroads—was proposed but without success. That would have been a European approach to the solution of the problem, combining the interests of protecting nature and cultural monuments with the need for technical progress.

Samara Oblast 'Patriotic Forces' Hold Congress

PM2004142294 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[V. Neverova report: "Congress of Samara Patriots"]

[Text] Samara—"We have perhaps been given one last chance." It was under that slogan that the first congress of the oblast's patriotic forces was held in Samara last Saturday, April 16.

The participants were representatives of various social strata—workers, peasants, students, and the scientific and creative intelligentsia—and various parties and movements—ranging from communists to monarchists. This broad sociopolitical spectrum also determined the character of the documents adopted at the congress. They were—a resolution "On Russia's National Security" with a proposal for early new elections of the president of the Russian Federation and the formation of a government of popular trust whose actions are directed not toward the demands of the IMF and the G-7 countries but the fundamental interests of the country's economy; and an appeal to the Federal Assembly not to allow affiliation to the NATO program or the holding of joint exercises at the Totskoye range. Colonel General Makashov took part in the congress and joined the oblast Council of Patriotic Forces.

By coincidence Yegor Gaydar was in Samara Oblast on the same days—Friday and Saturday. His visit was linked to the recruitment of supporters for the party of the "working aristocracy and small shopkeepers" created by him. Ye. Gaydar had meetings in Samara and Tolyatti where the audience consisted correspondingly of functionaries from the local administrative structures, bankers, and entrepreneurs....

Kaliningrad Living Standard Figures for Mar

WS2004170794 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 2 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The March 'Basket'"]

[Text] The Committee for Labor and Social Issues has calculated the minimum living (physiological) standard for March. According to statistics, the average wage in February was 115,300 rubles [R] with an average per capita income of R79,200; its correlation to the minimum living (physiological) standard was 158 percent. The same January index stood at 175 percent, which means that a decrease in people's earnings followed. In March, the minimum living (physiological) standard was R58,000, which exceeds the February rate by R7,800, or 15.5 percent.

The minimum living (physiological) standard for specific groups of people stood at R51,900 for families with children under six years of age; at R69,400 for families with children between seven and 15 years of age; with men between 16 and 59—at R68,300; for women aged 16 to 59 years of age—at R58,900; and with pensioners—at R40,100.

The increase in the minimum living (physiological) standard was primarily caused by a rise in prices for bread and flour products (42 percent), dairy products (20 percent), potatoes (19 percent), and meat (10 percent).

Members of the aforementioned committee conclude that the financial security of college students, people receiving minimum pensions, and families with many children has considerably worsened due to the increased prices. Scholarships and special state allowances, which are issued to college students, compensate for 38.3 percent of their minimum living requirements; scholarships issued to students of vocational schools—27.4 percent; and allowances issued to mothers—only 16.4 percent.

A minimum pension along with compensation payments stood at R34,300 (which is 85.5 percent of the minimum living standard).

It should be noted that in the majority of colleges and vocational schools, scholarships and compensations are usually delayed from one to two months. Over the first three months, allowances to mothers were delayed at many enterprises. Managers of enterprises attribute this to a lack of finances, even for issuing payments to employees, and the delayed transfer of assets designated for paying allowances to mothers. According to members of this committee, delays in paying scholarships, allowances, and wages trigger social tension.

The committee predicts that in April a 10-percent increase in prices will follow. Per capita income will remain at R87,000 and its correlation to the minimum living (physiological) standard will stay at 136 percent. The standard of living will gradually decrease and will correspond to the level of the first six months of 1993.

In April, some 22 percent of Kaliningrad Oblast residents will live at or near the poverty line (in January—7 percent). These people will require social assistance from the state. In the meantime, some rayons of the oblast are experiencing exceptionally dire problems in providing social assistance to families which are poorly off. In Zelenogradskiy Rayon, for example, school meals were suspended and there is money to provide financial assistance to those who need it.

Murmansk To Become Largest Gas Extraction Base

PM2004091194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA/ITAR-TASS report under the "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" rubric: "Murmansk Is Russian Gas El Dorado"]

[Text] The world's largest city within the Arctic circle, Murmansk, is destined to also become the world's largest base for the extraction of natural gas. Not far from it on a shelf in the Barents Sea, gigantic deposits of this fuel have been discovered. But while preparatory work prior to the marine deposits' exploitation is in progress, the city will feed from the West Siberian gas pipelines.

Tatar Vice Premier on Economic Independence

LD2004215794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The sole right to independently maintain foreign economic relations envisioned in the power-sharing treaty with the Russian Federation is insufficient to attract foreign investments, Tatar Vice Prime Minister Ravil Muratov said in Kazan Wednesday. He added that Tatarstan needed to win over the right to independently set export and import duties taking into account its own strategic interests and the right to set export quotas for oil for no less than five years. At present, the quotas are set for one year only. Otherwise, the Tatar government will be unable to guarantee foreign investors return on their capital.

Besides its external problems, Tatarstan needs to solve internal ones such as the introduction of private ownership of land in accordance with the Constitution, heal the credit and financial systems, create market institutions—private enterprises, leasing agencies, insurance companies, banks—capable of maintaining direct contacts with foreign partners.

Muratov said the present state of Tatarstan's economy was critical and needed immediate drastic reforms.

Magadan Duma Repeat Elections on 5 Jul

OW2104044594 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The city election commission scheduled repeat elections for the Magadan Oblast Duma and organs of local self-rule. The commission's decision ordains:

1. Scheduling repeat election for Magadan Oblast Duma in single-mandate election districts Nos. 1 to 7 for 5 July 1994.

2. Requiring that candidates pass the full gamut of all election activities in the aforementioned election districts, in accordance with election procedures. Persons who already ran for the post of deputy on 27 March 1994 can participate in the new elections but on an equal footing with other candidates, and after having submitted to the election commission a statement agreeing to run for office in a given election district and having submitted new lists with the necessary number of voters' signatures.

Let us remind you that repeat elections for Magadan Oblast Duma scheduled for 5 July are to take place in election districts located in the oblast center. Candidates must submit lists of signatures announcing their candidacies. Candidates will be registered by the district commission within five days after submitting their lists of signatures. District election committees will carry out early voting in remote and hard-to-reach regions. Early voting at facilities of regional election commissions will be conducted between 2 July to 4 July.

Shakhray Addresses Novosibirsk Policy Forum

PM2004133394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Andrey Illarionov report: "Siberians Discuss Strategy for Stabilization of Economy"]

[Text] Novosibirsk—A scientific-practical conference has been held in Novosibirsk with the following agenda: "A Strategy for the Stabilization of the Region's Economy: Problems and Solutions." It was organized by the Russian Federation Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Regional Policy, the relevant Federation Council committee, and the Novosibirsk Oblast Administration.

None of the country's regions can get out of the economic crisis on their own today, but the immutable condition for getting the country out of the crisis lies precisely in a flexible and differentiated regional policy. In his report on the basic avenues of the state's regional policy, Nationalities Affairs Minister Sergey Shakhray spoke of the need to strengthen the state's regulating role in leading the country out of the crisis, backing federalism in conjunction with the development of local self-government. Developing this thesis, the minister said that a more clear-cut, strict and differentiated regional policy is needed today, geared to solving social problems, as well as economic and other problems connected with them. This concerns, in particular, the need for a certain redistribution of resources in favor of regions which do not have large reserves of natural raw materials, and which have found themselves in the most difficult economic and social position today.

Sergey Shakhray also spoke of the fact that Russians have no alternative to economic integration with the CIS states, and that this task is urgent and at the same time requires civilized ways of being solved. An era of the revival of Russia, its statehood, its economy, and the dignity of Russians, and the revival of the country's cultural and national traditions is imminent...

Sergey Glazyev, chairman of a State Duma committee [bureau records list Glazyev as head of Duma Economic Policy Committee], gave a report about the basic spheres of economic stabilization in Russia. Academic Valentin Koptyug analyzed the crisis processes in Siberia and possible stabilization models. Ivan Indinok, head of the Novosibirsk Oblast Administration, spoke of the problems involved in the approach to stabilizing the socio-economic development of the region.

The participants in the conference have started discussing the problems of stabilization at section sittings.

Problems With Tyumen Oil Output Production

PM2004104994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Oil Dead End"]

[Text] Tyumen oil workers are not only losing the rhythm of oil extraction but also the market for their product. Uray oil workers, for instance, have been forced to cut their oil extraction by 200 tonnes a day.

And it is not only the Uray workers, Aleksandr Filippenko, head of the Khanti-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug Administration, confirmed. All oil production in the Ob River area is currently in a similar situation. Why? The first reason is obvious—it is simply unprofitable to extract the oil. On average in the Ob region the prime cost of a single tonne of oil is 100,000 rubles [R], yet it is sold (that is, simply pumped into the pipeline) for R65,000. But the oilmen cannot even get this money, because potential purchasers have no money either, and they are tired of selling on credit. It is, as they say, a vicious circle.

Orenburg Assembly Composition Criticized

PM2004132794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 2

[Valeriy Vedernikov report under the "Legislators in the Region" rubric: "New Orchestra Members, But Obsolete Repertoire. Notes from First Session of Orenburg Oblast Legislative Assembly"]

[Text] Orenburg—There had been a possibility that the session might not take place at all. On the same morning the oblast court might have passed its verdict on an action by V. Shapovalenko, the president's representative. The latter was insistently demanding that the elections in eight districts be deemed invalid. If the court had taken the side of the president's representative and deemed the decision of the oblast electoral commission incorrect, the deputies could have dispersed quietly to their homes. They would have lacked a quorum. The court adopted truly a decision of Solomon—to send to Moscow a question on how to interpret a particular point in the statute on elections. It is not known when the reply will come or when the court session will now be held.

Another surprise awaited deputies at the entrance to the House of Soviets. It was, however, perfectly to be expected. They had to pass through a "corridor of honor" made up of students, teachers, and higher educational institution lecturers. They were standing with placards, sometimes with highly sarcastic epithets addressed to the local power and the central power. The deputies must be given their due: They responded with lightning speed and included this item on the agenda.

After these tribulations the session nontheless began with a speech by the chairman of the oblast electoral commission. His speech contained several interesting points. Among the 36 deputies (11 seats are vacant pending repeat elections) 32 are Russian, two are Kazakhs, one is a Mordvinian, and one a Ukrainian. There was not a single representative of the Tatar nationality, the second largest in the oblast, in the composition of the assembly. Let us note that on the eve of the elections the Tatar sociocultural center had raised the question of granting a quota for the Legislative Assembly. How can we not recall those times when people in oblast party committee and soviet executive committee offices calculated, with an accuracy down to two decimal places, how many workers, peasants, and women there must be? Incidentally, there is not a single representative of the hammer and sickle in the present assembly, nor was there in the lists of candidates. The voters proved ill-disposed toward women, electing just one representative of them.

The election of the assembly chairman was no mystery. Senior Deputy R. Khramov announced that the only candidate was V. Grigoryev, who until the last day had

been chairman of the oblast soviet. The organizing committee had met the previous day, attended by six of its seven members. Five voted for Grigoryev, and one abstained. This was himself.

The calm was shattered by Deputy Yu. Nikiforenko. After listing the shortcomings of the single nominee, he proposed also including A. Zelepukhin, leader of the oblast agricultural administration, in the lists for a secret ballot. An alternative for the sake of an alternative, you might think. In our democratic times it would seem a nonsense when a candidate runs for a post all by himself.

It really was somewhat uncomfortable to see what happened next. Deputies began simultaneously burning such a lot of incense in praise of the sole candidate that, if they had really been doing so, it would not have been possible to make out faces through the smoke. On the other hand, they told Zelepukhin without beating about the bush: Step down. Although he had not yet, in fact, been included on the lists for a secret ballot.

Then the "heavy artillery" was brought up. State Duma Deputy T. Zlotnikova took the floor. Tamara Vladimirovna advanced six theses, according to which it was necessary to vote precisely for Grigoryev. Let us leave aside five of them. The chief one was that Valeriy Nikolayevich is noted for his great decency and honesty. This really is so. He does not have a cottage, such as officials of exalted rank are engaged in building with poorly concealed enthusiasm, and he has not left sumptuous apartments to his children. "He still drives a Zaporozhets," the president's representative, who was sitting next to me, whispered in my ear. He was talking, of course, of private motor transport. The State Duma deputy concluded her speech by saying that, but for Valeriy Nikolayevich's decency and honesty, he would certainly have gotten into the Federal Assembly (!!!). I listened and thought: What were the feelings at this moment of V. Yelagin, senator and head of the oblast administration, who beat Grigoryev in the struggle for this seat on the Federal Assembly?

Yelagin concluded the debate. He said that he would be "pleased to work" with Valeriy Nikolayevich. He added: "Not over a cup of coffee, of course." He advised the chief of the oblast agricultural administration to work a little better in his own post. He emphasized, however, that, whomever the deputies elected, he would strive for joint constructive work.

Finally Zelepukhin took the floor. He said that he could see for himself that there was a whole host of work in the agrarian sector. He reported that this was the reason why he had declined the recent invitation to Moscow to take up a cozy and quiet post. Just as he was about to sit down again, he said, as though suddenly remembering: "Yes, I withdraw my candidacy." Valeriy Nikolayevich Grigoryev was elected chairman of the oblast Legislative Assembly in a secret ballot. The sole candidate got 35 of the 36 votes. Familiar, is it not?

Maybe it was not worth going into such detail about the first session of the provincial parliament. But I am afraid that the oblast Legislative Assembly is doomed to such a scenario by virtue of its composition. For it is heads of rayon administrations and leaders of industrial and agricultural enterprises who form the majority on it. They will assent to the executive, forgetting about their legislative role. Then the Orenburg voters will discover in surprise that they have engaged musicians for the "orchestra" who all play the same instrument.

Kalmykia Leader's Agenda, Actions Examined

PM2104091594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p5

[Article by correspondent Valeriy Vyzhutovich: "Code For the Steppe; Kalmyk Statehood Buried by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov"]

[Text] "By proclaiming its sovereignty and signing the Federation Treaty, Kalmykia has unequivocally expressed the will of its peoples for socioeconomic progress, national and cultural revival, and a higher standard of living for its population within the framework of a unified Russian Federation.... It thereby assumes full responsibility for its future." (Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, candidate president of Kalmykia, March 1993).

"No one will send us money and the republic's inhabitants will be in a lamentable state. Consequently, we must abolish the Constitution of the Republic of Kalmykia and dual citizenship, proclaim exclusively Russian citizenship, and abide by the Russian Constitution alone in the territory of Kalmykia." (Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of Kalmykia, March 1994).

The document adopted in place of the abolished Constitution of Kalmykia is called the "Steppe Code."

"I Did Not Prepare the Population...."

Ilyumzhinov's address to an enlarged session of the republic parliament, when he proposed to abandon the Constitution of Kalmykia, was stunning in its suddenness, as much as in its abolitionist zeal. "I deliberately did not prepare the population," he was to say several days later before a large audience. "I did not even warn my assistants. If you were watching television, you will have seen how the faces of people sitting in the auditorium fell."

The president's legislative initiative has tempted people by the noble language in which it is couched: "To help Russia, to extend a helping hand to the Kremlin and to the Russian leadership, and to take a step in the direction of uniting Russia."

Until now, there has been no organized opposition in Kalmykia. Now there is. It is a rare example—perhaps the only example in all Russia—of political antagonists, communists and members of "Russia's Choice," joining

forces. Members of the Agrarian Party, the Republic Party, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, and the Oyrat-Kalmyk National Movement have cast aside their differences. The Union of War and Labor Veterans and the Union of Students have found a common language. Finally, a public committee to protect the Constitution of Kalmykia and Kalmyk citizenship and statehood has been born. Ilyumzhinov is extremely satisfied with this and has told the whole republic: "This was all planned beforehand.... I have exposed overt and covert enemies and people standing in my way in this process of restructuring and reorganization.... Lists will soon be published, practical conclusions will be drawn in a week, and I shall name names.... I have already dismissed four people. On Saturday, several leaders will write statements of their own accord."

The prayer-like introduction of the published draft "Steppe Code" is disturbing: "Throwing ourselves at the feet of the great prelate who now turns the wheel of modern teaching...." Kalmyks account for 45 percent of the republic's population, and only one-quarter of them are believers. Local Christians and Muslims, let alone inveterate atheists, are certainly not obliged to "throw themselves at the feet" of Buddha.

The draft invests the president of the republic with dictatorial powers. He may dissolve the People's Hural (parliament) before term if it "does not guarantee stability in society" (what boundless scope for interpretation!); recommend who is to be elected chairman of parliament and his deputy; recommend who is to be appointed head of the Supreme Court and the Court of Arbitration, chairman and deputy chairman of city and rayon courts, and so on and so forth....

"Replacing the Constitution by the proposed normative act will legally consolidate the authoritarian system of government established in the republic, which has consigned to oblivion the principle of separating powers," an extraordinary congress of the people of Kalmykia stated. However, a Constitutional Assembly (by the nature of its tasks, it would, of course, have been more appropriate to call it the Anticonstitutional Assembly) was hastily formed under the strict control of the presidential apparatus. This burial team was knocked together from 300 people: 10 from every rayon, 50 from Elista, 75 from the executive, 25 (the whole of parliament) from the legislature, and 20 from various parties and movements.

Kalmyk statehood was ready for "burial" in three weeks.

Bidding Farewell to Sovereignty

It was "buried" on 5 April, Ilyumzhinov's birthday. Morning pickets outside the parliament building noted the intersection of these occasions with a placard: "The president's birthday should not be the republic's death day!" (Local political folklore was immediately enriched with an oral version along the same lines: "Kirsan did not slaughter a sheep for his birthday—he slaughtered the Constitution"). The hopeless words fluttered in the wind: "Shame on the gravediggers of Kalmyk statehood!" and "Mr. President, our Constitution is not for sale!"

Meanwhile, the crack troops of approval and support were entering the sessions hall.

"I mount this rostrum with great excitement and a deep sense of responsibility," a nice woman, a local doctor from the rayon and first in a line of disciplined orators, began reading. "Kirsan Nikolayevich has initiated a new, peaceful revolution in our society...."

Passing the baton of approval lasted four hours, plus an interval. A lone dissenter requested the floor, but the assembly unanimously refused his request. So the drafting commission proposed that the document be "adopted as a basis" (one vote against, one abstention), the president made an emotional speech of thanks, and the national anthem was played for some reason, despite the fact that the state no longer existed....

No Sign of a "Second Kuwait"

"So you are exchanging sovereignty for federal subsidies?" The president was not at all disconcerted by my question.

"What do you mean by exchange? There never was any sovereignty! Not real sovereignty. Only on paper. The republic has always been subsidized."

"But a year ago you promised that the republic would live on its own resources. 'We plan to build economic relations with Russia on a partnership basis and give up the billions in subsidies.' That is a quote from your election program."

"Well, that I do not deny. Everything is being carried out. I still say we shall turn the republic into a single industrial, financial, and investment corporation. People ask: Where are the results? But it takes time for them to show. Only a year has passed since my election."

Yes, a year has passed, and there is still no sign of Kalmykia being turned into a "second Kuwait." There is no offshore zone (that is, a zone virtually free of taxation), which, it was triumphantly proclaimed, would take no more than a year to create. Furthermore, one in five families in the republic do not have their own Mercedes as promised.

There is none of this. There is an average wage of 36,500 rubles [R]. There is the desperate need of the collective farmer, who receives approximately R6,000 per month, to slaughter his own livestock and "hitchhike" with sheep carcasses along the Stavropol-Elista-Volgograd highway, selling them at R20,000 each—approximately R1,000 per kilogram. Otherwise he does not have the means with which to buy sugar, salt, candy, and vodka (he gets everything else, apart from manufactured goods, from his own kitchen garden and pastures).

Sheep farming and primary wool processing, which account for 80 percent of the republic's total output, have been devastated. The sheep population has fallen from 3.5 million to 1.5 million as a result of disease, theft, and forced slaughter.

The catastrophic collapse of the economy and Kalmykia's total dependence on federal subsidies (in 1993 they accounted for 86 percent of budget revenue) are Kirsan Ilyumzhinov's main motives for selling the republic's sovereignty. But there are other reasons to do with politics and the Criminal Code.

Request for Forgiveness

As head of several dozen private companies, banks, and exchanges in Russia and abroad, the origin of Ilyumzhinov's billions in capital is a subject of natural curiosity—as yet not fully satisfied beyond a shadow of doubt—for the media and, basically, for anyone unsure whether this money has been honestly acquired.

"The Internal Affairs Ministry and the Security Ministry spent five months investigating my commercial activity," he told me. "They found no criminal. Think about it: If I were involved in some shady business, would I have drawn attention to myself by running for president? I would have sat quiet and kept a low profile. Let them continue investigating: I have nothing to fear."

Yes, it is possible that they will investigate further: The top Russian leadership has suddenly begun to take a lively interest in the origin of Ilyumzhinov's capital, although before it seemed totally unconcerned. A letter from Russian Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin to Russian First Deputy Economics Minister Andrey Shapovalyants has appeared in the press. It said that the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry has discovered abuses of specially targeted credit worth R14 billion allocated on preferential terms by the Central Bank to the "Steppe" Commercial Bank (Kalmykia) to purchase wool. The document continues:

"In order for Ilyumzhinov to profit from the the illegal use of credit resources, the "Steppe" Commercial Bank was set up in the city of Elista, the founders being commercial enterprises headed by him.... Under the guise of purchasing wool, Ilyumzhinov and his closest associates secretly converted money... and subsequently placed it in the accounts of foreign firms, including 2.5 million in the account of a private individual in Poland...."

It is unlikely that Ilyumzhinov wants an investigation to be set in motion. Particularly since the president of Kalmykia forfeited the trust of the top Russian leadership with his peacemaking march on the White House to Aleksandr Rutskoy at the height of the October events.

Thus the springtime efforts by Ilyumzhinov, hastily surrendering the sovereignty of his republic for use by another power, look like a request for forgiveness. For political sins. And for criminal sins, if the president of Kalmykia really is burdened with such, which no one has the right to say at present, other than the courts.

Direct Speech

"I will introduce a state of emergency in the republic and simultaneously announce a moratorium on rallies, demonstrations, and strikes. I will terminate the activity of all social movements and organizations and close down many newspapers. I will adopt an edict on disbanding all political parties, popular fronts, and movements."

"I propose to introduce an economic dictatorship in Kalmykia."

"In order to increase production, I will introduce a six-day working week for the male half of society."

"When our standard of living is twice as high as that of other regions of Russia, democracy can run the show."

"Kalmykia Needs a Khan"

These public statements by Kirsan Ilyumzhinov are so definite and unequivocal that they hardly require any comment. Others, on the contrary, need to be clarified and explained.

"I have invited Gaydar to become prime minister of Kalmykia and have received his preliminary consent." (Gaydar has not consented to take up this post, as he made clear in an interview).

"We are to conclude agreements with Russia and other CIS countries on dual taxation." (Dual taxation in tandem with the republic's planned transformation into an offshore zone is economic nonsense, as the former cancels out the latter).

"On instructions from Gorbachev, I went to the United States in 1990 as part of our delegation to discuss the question of buying grain." (Ilyumzhinov did not take part in this mission and did not have the official powers to do so).

"I have been invited to take up the post of ambassador to Japan." (According to information supplied by the Russian Foreign Ministry, Ilyumzhinov has received no such proposal).

"I have been nominated as mayor of Moscow." (Ilyumzhinov did not feature on the list of candidates for this post).

"The republic's Internal Affairs Ministry will be equipped by France." (According to the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry, this question can only be considered after the appropriate accords have been reached between the Russian and French Governments. The federal Internal Affairs Ministry has no information on possible supplies of French specialist equipment to Kalmykia).

These inaccuracies and exaggerations, to put it delicately, and this self-image—instilled in the local public—as a statesman renowned throughout Russia and the

world are explained by observers in Kalmykia as a symptom of Ilyumzhinov's morbid vanity: "He wants to be first everywhere. He wants to be the person whose name day it is, the bridegroom at the wedding, and the corpse at the funeral."

The Constitution Is Up For Sale. But Is Anyone Buying?

The political market is like any other market: Demand is formed by supply. But will the center buy the Constitution of Kalmykia and hand over the billions Ilyumzhinov is demanding in return?

Experts at the presidential administration's analytical center recommend that the Russian leadership "not make any long-term commitments with regard to giving Kalmykia subsidies and credits from the federal budget, issuing it with export licenses, and generally making concessions; all financial and economic relations with the republic should be arranged on a short-term basis."

The Russian president's press secretary, Vyacheslav Kostikov, was also cautious and restrained in his official statement responding to Ilyumzhinov's initiative: "The Constitution of the Russian Federation allows the status of a component of the Russian Federation to be changed only by the mutual consent of the Federation and the component in question.... The proposal made by K. Ilyumzhinov, as we are to understand from his words, deals precisely with the matter of changing the status of the Republic of Kalmykia. If it is proposed to retain republic status, however, Kalmykia must have its own constitution in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation."

Representatives of several Russian republics have spoken out, calling the president of Kalmykia "a traitor and an apostate."

In short, Ilyumzhinov's proposal is not yet in broad political demand. He risks finding himself in isolation. Wishing to please everyone at once, he may please no one. The republic will not forgive his treachery (particularly if Moscow does not give subsidies and credits). The Kremlin will not turn a blind eye to his mysterious billions and political vacillation. Then the president of Kalmykia's "world renown," of which he never tires of reminding people, will only be prolonged by his regular visits to the Bulgarian prophetess Vanga and by his embraces with the Dalai Lama.

International Affairs

Baltin on 'Normal Functioning' of Fleet

LD2004155794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Extreme political decisions are taken when politicians find themselves in a hopeless economic situation, Commander of the Black Sea Fleet Admiral Baltin told INTERFAX commenting on last week's talks on the Black Sea Fleet.

On 15 April, the Russian and Ukrainian presidents came to terms on a gradual settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem on the basis of the fleet's division. Ukraine is to have 15 to 20 percent of the fleet.

Baltin believes that Ukraine will fail to ensure the combat efficiency of the ships and the normal functioning of the fleet. He noted that Ukraine had unilaterally established control over 35 percent of the Black Sea Fleet. So 65, not 100 percent of the fleet will have to be equally divided, he said.

Baltin also announced that 18 months ago, Ukraine received a missile cruiser, small antisubmarine boats, small amphibious ships and a coast-guard boat, all of them new and 65-85 percent combat ready. None of these ships have been brought to complete combat readiness, said Baltin.

He pointed out, meanwhile, that if Ukraine had enough money it would have a unique missile cruiser not to be found either in the Black Sea, or in the Mediterranean or in the U.S. 6th Fleet.

Kravchuk on Fleet Pact, Supreme Council Action

LD2004185394

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1300 GMT on 20 April carries a 10-minute recorded report on an interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by an unidentified correspondent in Kiev's Kharkovskiy District on 19 April.

The correspondent asks Kravchuk about a meeting held by the Sevastopol Town Council, which requested that the Ukrainian president withdraw Ukraine's Armed Forces from the town.

Kravchuk replies: "I do not think this is a confrontation or a turning point. I think there will be various points of view and various positions until the problem of the Black Sea Fleet is resolved. We must be calm about this and approach it with understanding. The main thing, however, is to solve the problem.

"I will tell you frankly that I do not see the possibility that the Ukrainian Armed Forces can exist alongside the Russian naval base that could be in Sevastopol on the basis of a leasing agreement that is recognized by the world. I support this idea because I see no other way out at the moment. There will never be accord there if they are together or next to each other.

"For this reason, if the base is to be in Sevastopol—I stress not the town of Sevastopol, because there are various interpretations here—I am not talking about the town, but about the base in the town of Sevastopol. It is a question of interpretation, but it is necessary to be precise. Some people do not observe this, and there are misunderstandings because of this. In this case, there should be a base for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Moreover, the base for the Russian fleet will not be leased in perpetuity but for a specified period that will be determined by documents.

"There is no need to dramatize or imagine that one thing has been agreed and now they are talking about something else. Everybody puts forward his point of view. Until a final document is signed, along with all its attributes and mechanisms, there will be various interpretations. Do not exaggerate the various bits of information, statements, or decisions—even by the Sevastopol Town Council—because for us this is of a consultative nature. I would not like to prejudice the course of events. I know that a Russian-Ukrainian commission has already starting working on this, but I would like them to complete their work successfully.

"We must resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet. We are obliged to do so. Please understand that this is not simply a question of dividing the fleet. It is a political issue. It is considered to be a joint fleet at the moment. In reality, however—without wanting to dramatize it—it is not subordinate to Ukraine. This joint fleet takes some actions as a joint fleet, and we—both Ukraine and Russia—are responsible for these actions. For example, I am not allowed to intervene directly, but I am responsible if it is a joint fleet and I sign a document. For this reason, I consider that we must clearly determine as soon as possible that this is a Russian fleet with Russian laws, regulations, and enforceable enactments. Russia would be responsible for its fleet and Ukraine for its fleet.

"It is necessary to resolve this, and this is the most important thing. We must sit behind a table and resolve it. I insist, insisted, and will insist on this. It is dangerous to drag it out."

The correspondent says that the Ukrainian Supreme Council will have to ratify the agreement, and Kravchuk adds: "This is not a tragedy. The main thing is that the presidents sign the documents and then submit them to parliament. An important step will have been taken. The presidents and governments make proposals and then submit them to parliament. Parliament expresses its view. I am convinced that the Ukrainian parliament understands the situation. There are realities that, despite all desires, cannot be ignored. They exist today and should be resolved. There is no other way but to resolve this on the basis of wise and constructive principles, with compromises, and in the interests of today, tomorrow, and the distant future.

"If it is a serious policy, then that is how we should act. I know how sensitive this issue is, how you react to it, and how every statement and comment is interpreted differently. There is one principle, however, which is to resolve and settle the issue of the Black Sea Fleet: the issue of a base for the Russian fleet, the division of the fleet, and compensation to Ukraine for our share of the fleet that is being given away to Russia.

"These are the main issues. We have already discussed them in detail in Yalta, Zavidovo, and Massandra. We have already worked on this. We only have to sit down and write down the precise formulation on the principles and interests of our states, taking into account international experience. That is all we are talking about.

"Ukraine clearly abides by the provisions that are defined in three documents—and now in the fourth one signed in Moscow. Thus, there are four documents on the Black Sea Fleet. I would like the fifth one to be the last."

Grachev Arrives in Sevastopol, Comments on Talks

LD2004213094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1921 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sevastopol 20 April TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Sevastopol on Wednesday for talks with Ukrainian officials on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to an agreement signed in Moscow on 15 April, naval bases of the Black Sea Fleet of Russia and Ukraine must be separated. The naval base of one of the fleets should be in Sevastopol. "This is what will be at issue at the upcoming talks," Grachev said upon arrival at Sevastopol airport.

The Russian minister expressed hope for the success of the talks, saying that he positively assessed proposals suggesting that the entire Black Sea Fleet should belong to Russia. According to Grachev, the fate of the Black Sea Fleet depends on politicians and they have had their say on the matter. Now the matter rests with the military," Grachev said.

Grachev does not expect that during the talks a final resolution on the Black Sea Fleet will be adopted. Nevertheless, he pointed out that "he would be satisfied if key principles and approaches to this problem are coordinated." "We came to Ukraine in a bid to reach a fair solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem," the Russian defence minister said. Upon arrival in Sevastopol Grachev met commanders of the Black Sea Fleet. Afterwards, he will meet the city administration. On Thursday, Grachev will begin talks with the Ukrainian delegation led by Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy.

Grachev is accompanied by a plenipotentiary representative of the Russian president to the talks, Yuriy Dubinin, who told journalists at the airport that the main task of the talks is to reach the realisation of agreements reached in Moscow. According to Dubinin, all previous agreements on the solution of the Black Sea Fleet problem were not realised since lower structures "refused to comply with the president's will."

Speaks With Pilots

LD2104105794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1036 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk]

[Text] Sevastopol 21 April TASS—Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev, who came to Sevastopol as head of a Russian delegation to hold talks on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, has had a meeting with officers of the Black Sea Fleet. He stressed in his report that Russia intended to further maintain the Black Sea Fleet in a proper condition as one of the most efficient armed units for the defence of its southers borders. We shall do our utmost for turning Sevastopol into the main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, Grachev said.

The Russian defence minister confered on the officers, who showed especially good performance, the military ranks, that were due to them, earlier than planned before. These included the commander of the Cheleken, the hydrographic vessel that transported hydrographic equipment from Odessa.

Grachev had to cool the temper of some angry officers at the meeting. For instance, Colonel Lobov from the Air Force of the Black Sea Fleet said that pilots intended to leave no planes to the Ukrainian side, to take off without permission and fly to Russia.

Says No 'Concessions' To Be Made

LD2104074094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Report by Sergey Voziyanov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Talks between Russian and Ukrainian military delegations on a stage-by-stage settlement of Black Sea Fleet problems begin in Sevastopol today.

Pavel Grachev, the head of the Russian delegation and Russian defense minister, said the Russian military delegation would not grant any favors or concessions going beyond the framework of the agreement and also the Massandra protocol and other documents concerning the fleet.

Pavel Grachev stressed the Russian delegation would approach the destiny of the Black Sea Fleet in a constructive and equitable manner. According to INTERFAX,

the defense minister's view is that Russia has enough strength and resources to purchase the whole of the Black Sea Fleet altogether.

Meets Sevastopol Sailors

LD2104094294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is in Sevastopol for talks on dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, has had a meeting with personnel of the fleet. He said at the meeting that the Russian delegation will insist on separate bases for the Russian Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy, and that the Russian Navy's base will remain in Sevastopol. The Russian minister called on the Black Sea sailors not to give in to provocations, but to show restraint and calm.

Our correspondent Yuriy Novikov reports that this afternoon there will be talks between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. It has been learned that the Ukrainian sidle is ready to hand over to Russia only some of the moorings and bases of the fleet in Sevastopol. The Russian delegation does not agree with this proposal and will insist on Russia being handed over all the fleet's bases in Sevastopol.

Radetskyy on Ukrainian-Estonian Military Cooperation

LD2004230994 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1910 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] Today, Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik arrived in Ukraine on an official visit. After a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart, Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, a news conference was held for the mass media representatives. We invite you to listen to the speech by Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy.

[Begin Radetskyy recording] We have an opportunity to welcome Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik on the land of Ukraine. This visit is a symbol of developing friendly relations between our countries. The signing in 1992 of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between our countries became the first official step in this direction. However, in my opinion, our peoples' good feelings toward each other extend far beyond the limits of official documents. It may not be out of place to recall that Ukraine and the Republic of Estonia recognized each other's independence and sovereignty as far back as 1921. The fact that this independence was later crossed out mercilessly was not our predecessors' guilt, but their bad luck.

Today, we must remember this to prevent numerous tragedies of the past from happening again, and, unfortunately, there are too many of these in the historical memory of our people. It is with this very aim that both Estonia and Ukraine strive to join the family of European nations as fully-fledged members, and show concern for the consolidation of security and stability on our continent. Already now, after the first exchange of opinions with the minister, I can make a conclusion that our views of the future architecture of European security coincide in their majority.

In particular, we see great prospects in the implementation of NATO's Partnership for Peace program. This is a real chance to establish genuinely partnership relations with the countries of the West and East, and prevent the return to the times of military-political confrontation. We do not see any substantial reasons for which any country, if it is guided by good will, can be denied access to this program which does not contradict the national legislation of the countries-participants, respects their sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is exactly on these grounds that we are trying to solve the painful for Ukraine issue of the future of the Black Sea Fleet. Already, we have firm intentions in the near future to come to an understanding with Russia as far as this complicated issue is concerned.

Ukraine has always been against the deployment of foreign troops on the territories of other states without their clearly expressed consent. Our stand on this issue is clear regarding both purely domestic problems facing Ukraine and international precedents. This is exactly why we show understanding of Estonia's stand concerning the withdrawal of the Russian troops from their national territory. In my opinion, the current year must become a decisive year in solving this problem.

I am deeply convinced that the development of good-neighborly and sincere relations between countries of Eastern and Central Europe, within the context of the all-European processes, allows the future to be viewed with optimism. The deepening of the Ukrainian-Estonian dialogue is part of this future.

With Mr. Kannik we signed an agreement on military cooperation. This is an important and far-reaching document. It lays down a basis for military-scientific cooperation, mutual interaction in the military education sphere, retraining of troops, social protection of servicemen, and other issues. We felt the desire of the Estonian side to build these relations on the principles of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit.

I hope that during the meetings with government officials and with Ukrainian Defense Ministry officials our Estonian partners will have an opportunity to concrete these principles essentially. I am convinced that the development of bilateral contacts between the military departments of Ukraine and Estonia is useful for our states and peoples. [end recording]

[Announcer] You have been listening to a speech by Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy at a news conference held jointly with Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik, whose official visit to our state got under way today.

Military Cooperation Pact Signed

LD2004223494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2010 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—During the official visit by Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik to Kiev on 20 April, the heads of the military departments of Ukraine and Estonia signed an agreement on military cooperation between the defense ministries of the two countries. At a joint news conference by the defense ministers that took place on the same day, it was emphasized that Estonia and Ukraine have common views—in particular, as far as international security is concerned. According to Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukraine's defense minister, a special commission will be set up to work out the possibility of handing conventional armaments, subject to reduction, to the Estonian side under barter conditions. In Kannik's opinion, the granting of special status to Russia in the "Partnership for Peace" program—if it joins the program—is out of the question. Tallinn and Moscow cannot find a common approach on settling the issue of withdrawing Russian troops from the Estonian territory.

Radetskyy told journalists that he maintains regular ties with Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and intends to begin negotiations with him on 21 April in Sevastopol concerning the final solution of the Black Sea Fleet issue, negotiations that will last until 23 April approximately. The head of the Ukrainian military department pointed out that Ukraine would propose that Russia take the main base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet—which Sevastopol would probably remain as—for a term of five years. "However, such a proposal will need to be ratified by the Ukrainian parliament after it is coordinated with the Russian side," said Radetskyy.

Radetskyy also informed journalists that social issues will be a priority at the Black Sea Fleet negotiations. "On 20 April, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk reaffirmed the fact that the economic security of Ukrainian naval sailors and those officers and warrant officers who would like to transfer from the Black Sea Fleet to the Naval Forces of Ukraine would be the same," the Ukrainian defense minister assured.

Preliminary Understanding With Iran on Oil Agreement

LD2004193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Ukraine and Iran have reached preliminary understanding on the mechanism of implementing the 1992 agreement on oil and gas shipments to Ukraine. Under the agreement, Iran was supposed to annually deliver 10 to 12 Bn cubic meters of gas and 5 Mn tonnes of oil.

However, according to the Ukrainian embassy in Tehran, the agreement actually did not come into force because the question of building a gas pipeline from Iran to Ukraine remained open. The Ukrainian side is unable to supply the pipes and other building materials. Besides, the pipeline was to cross Russian territory and no agreement was reached on the project with Russia.

At talks in Tehran on Monday the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and the Iranian Oil and Gas Minister Gholam Reza Agazadeh reached preliminary agreement on increasing Iranian gas supplies along the existing gas pipeline to Azerbaijan by 3 Bn cubic meters. Turkmenistan should accordingly reduce gas supplies to Azerbaijan and increase deliveries to Ukraine.

According to the Ukrainian Embassy, the pattern of gas deliveries has been discussed with Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, talks with Turkmenistan on the matter have not been held.

Last February Turkmenistan stopped direct gas deliveries to Ukraine when the Ukrainian debt rose to $700 Mn.

The talks in Tehran reportedly focused on the possibility of Iranian oil supplies in exchange for Ukrainian farm goods.

As the Ukrainian facilities technologically are unable to refine Iranian oil, deliveries will evidently follow the same pattern as in the case of gas—using a third country.

The patterns of delivery will be finalized during sessions of a mixed commission for trade and economic cooperation.

An agreement between the two countries might be signed during the visit to Ukraine by the Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani planned for this year.

Zlenko Cited on Failed Oil Talks With Iran

MK2004095094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Natalya Kalashnikova: "Ukraine-Iran Talks. All Oil Roads Lead to Moscow"]

[Text] The results of a mission to Tehran by Ukraine Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko that ended yesterday have disappointed both sides. The contracts on deliveries of Iranian oil to Kiev are recognized as dead and buried. Ukraine could not after all get "black gold" either by the oil pipeline running across Azerbaijan or by tankers across the Black Sea because the Turkish side would not let them pass through the Bosporus.

Oil contacts with Tehran that saw the light of day as a result of Kiev's seeking economic independence from Moscow called for the supply of 5 million tonnes of "black gold" as early as 1992, and another 4 million in 1993. There were plans under which the "Iranian oil for Ukrainian metal" barter scheme was supposed to have reached the $7 billion level. There was also talk of a really pipe-dream project, of a direct oil and gas pipeline

from Iran to Ukraine. But it was perhaps not fated. Mr. Zlenko has characterized the situation with failed deliveries as a stalemate.

Now there is a new deal in the offing. Iran intends to buy from Kiev military hardware manufactured in Ukraine, in particular Antonov-type military transport planes and spares for them. Since there are no diplomatic constraints for such bilateral relations, this understanding appears rather realistic.

A bilateral commission to coordinate economic cooperation was formed. As for political ties, Tehran has so far offered to Kiev mediation in freeing Ukrainian POW's in Afghanistan (there are nearly 80 of them).

Foreign Minister Zlenko To Visit Vietnam 21 Apr

LD2104091094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2010 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, [no date as received]—Ukraine's Foreign Ministry told a UNIAN correspondent that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko will pay an official visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on 21 April. The head of Ukraine's foreign policy department will meet Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh, and Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. A joint statement or foreign ministers' declaration is expected to be signed which will set out the basic principles of relations between Ukraine and Vietnam and outline prospects for their development.

They will also discuss preparations for the signing of a treaty between Ukraine and Vietnam on the principles of relations and cooperation, and a number of economic agreements, in particular on avoiding double taxation, on protecting and assisting investments in power engineering, and on legal assistance and employment. Anatoliy Zlenko will discuss with Vietnamese government representatives the forthcoming visit to Ukraine by Vietnam Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

According to additional information from Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam recognized Ukraine's independence on 27 December 1991. Diplomatic relations were established between the two states in January 1992. Agreements have been signed between Ukraine and Vietnam on air links, terms of mutual visa free travel by citizens, commercial navigation, cooperation in [word indistinct], and electrical communications, and a protocol on consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Zlenko, Indian President on Prospects for Relations

LD2004220494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] On 20 April, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko completed his official visit to India. In the afternoon he met India's President Shankar Dayal Sharma. The sides, in particular, expressed their satisfaction with the fact that relations between the two countries are developing actively on the principles of traditional friendly relations and mutual understanding. In their opinion, the agreements on economic and technical cooperation, and on the international commission for trade, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the two countries, signed in Delhi, contributed significantly to their further development.

Tarasyuk Says Russian Article 'Provocative Lie'

LD2004185294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] At the request of journalists, Deputy Ukrainian Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk commented on the article: Probable Plans of Improbable Enemy, published in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA on 19 April. The article deals with the allegedly worked out plans of landing Ukrainian troops in Kuban and the Don [river]. Other so-called instances of the production of various kinds of weapons here [in Ukraine] are provided in the article.

Tarasyuk referred to this article as an outright provocative lie by the Moscow-based newspaper. According to him, this refers, in particular, to information about the production of tactical missiles at PivdenMash [southern machine-building plant in Dnepropetrovsk] and work on manufacturing binary, chemical, and bacteriological weapons allegedly under way here in Ukraine.

The deputy foreign minister reminded in this connection that our state is a signatory of the convention banning the above weapons and it strictly abides by its provisions. In Tarasyuk's opinion, such publications prove that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA probably takes an active part in fanning up anti-Ukrainian sentiments in Russian society and tries to undermine the process of normalizing relations between the two neighboring states.

National Affairs

Communists Hold News Conference on Legislative Goals

LD2004110594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—Leaders of Ukraine's Communist Party (KPU) held a news conference on 19 April at which Petro Symonenko, KPU central committee first secretary, said the party's minimum task had almost been achieved. The communists won 86 seats, while the left bloc as a whole had more than one third of the votes in the parliament. In the words of Petro Symonenko, the KPU revealed itself as a significant political force. The communist faction is counting on fruitful cooperation with other factions and with nonaffiliated deputies. Petro Symonenko said: "We are entering parliament as a

constructive force. We have a constructive platform that is aimed at creating conditions for a normal life for the people of Ukraine."

It was reported at the news conference that more than 10 million citizens of Ukraine had voted for the communists during the elections to the Supreme Council, which in the party leadership's opinion, is proof of the adherence by a significant part of Ukraine's population to the ideas of socialist justice, internationalism, and an equal union of independent states.

Regarding activity in parliament, Petro Symonenko noted that the communists would not give in to provocations by nationalists who "continue to frighten the people with supposedly the communists will paralyze parliament's work by submitting for discussion the issue on state symbols." In the words of the KPU leader, for the communists, the Supreme Council's first steps will be the formation of parliamentary and government structures, as well as the implementation of an economic program that envisages the introduction of state regulation in the basic sectors of industry and agriculture, introduces changes to the taxation system that, in the communists' opinion, is directed against workers and changes to the financial and credit systems etc. After this, the communists intend to submit for the parliament's consideration the issue of repealing the ban on the KPU and on returning assets that for the most part have become the property of commercial structures.

Petro Symonenko informed journalists that in the near future, a meeting is expected to be held with Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, at the latter's instigation. The KPU also proposed that Ivan Plyushch form a working group to prepare the work of the new Supreme Council. This was agreed. It was stressed that the communists are taking part in the presidential campaign only for the sake of publicizing communist ideas among Ukraine's population. In the event of a communist contender being elected (Petro Symonenko's candidacy has been approved), he would do everything to ensure that power in Ukraine belonged exclusively to the councils.

Replying to questions from journalists regarding the division of the Black Sea Fleet, Petro Symonenko said that in order to resolve this problem it would be necessary to return to a defense union with Russia, within which the problem would be resolved peacefully. Replying to a question about Ukraine's place in the world, Borys Oliynyk, KPU central committee member, said relations with other states should be built on the basis of equality.

New Crimean Government Takes Office

LD2004194094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The new government of the Ukrainian autonomous Republic of Crimea on Wednesday took office in Simferopol. Its nucleus is the "Moscow team" of Yevgeniy Saburov, a Russian economist invited by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov to hold the post of deputy prime minister.

The government includes Economics Minister Andrey Chernyavskiy, Finance Minister Lyudmila Zaitseva, Agriculture and Food Minister Sergey Nikolskiy, head of the Service of State Affairs Viktor Minin, Minister for the Management of State Enterprises Anatoliy Franchuk (deputy premier in the previous Crimean government), Security Service chief Valeriy Lepikhov, Interior Minister Valeriy Kuznetsov, and Justice Minister Lyubov Yeliseyeva-Bora.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk earlier canceled Lepikhov's appointment as head of security.

All the appointments are subject to confirmation by the Crimean parliament. Before that, their titles will be prefixed by "acting."

Russia Bloc Deputies To Support Crimean President

MK2004110094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report in the "NEGA reports" column]

[Text] Crimea—Deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet elected from the Russia bloc as well as deputies supporting the bloc's program have held a closed meeting. There are 61 such deputies (out of 94). The meeting decided to create a deputies group. Deputy Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Republican Party of Crimea, which is affiliated with the Russia bloc, proposed that this deputies group fully support the president of the Crimean Republic. "Because this group effectively has a constitutional majority in the future parliament, any decision can be made ignoring the Crimean Tatar deputies (whose number is the new parliament is 14)," Tsekov said. This was decisively opposed by Vladimir Klychnikov, coordinator of the Russia bloc; and deputies Boris Kizilov and Vadim Mordashov.

'Accord for Revival' Declaration Signed in Crimea

WS2104082994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A Crimean declaration—accord for revival—was signed by a number of political parties operating on the peninsula in Simferopol. Our reporter Anatolyy Polonskyy comments on this issue.

[Polonskyy] Representatives of the mass media were asked to cover the declaration signing ceremony. My personal viewpoint is that the authors of this document wished to demonstrate the importance and significance of their work, which had been carried out by them in the name of the interparty and interethnic accord, which is the basis of the course aimed at the socioeconomic revival of the Crimea. Of course, the signing of the

declaration was called an event of historical importance. Certainly, to leave the economic crisis, to be revived, the Crimea today requires peace and accord. We cannot help but to agree with the majority of the declaration's provisions. Who can oppose the provision stating that the principle of creation and not destruction should be the basis for practical activities, or that interparty relations should be based not on our differences but on similarities? However, this declaration remains a declaration if one says one thing but does the opposite.

In the Crimea, all the political forces favor peace and accord, no party calls for violating laws, and they all support the inviolable friendship among the Crimean peoples. How can the existence of [words indistinct] openly anti-Ukrainian slogans and appeals on the square in front of the legislature and the residence of the president be explained? These slogans and appeals are so insulting to the national Ukrainian dignity [words indistinct], said Oleksandr Fedorenko, representative of the Crimean section of the Ukrainian Republican Party, that he could not bring himself to sign this declaration. The actions on the square are supporting President Yuriy Meshkov, Oleksandr Fedorenko said. The question arises whether the president indulges the organizers of this action or whether this is just his policy. The more [words indistinct] near the president's residence, the fewer tourists (?will come) to the Crimea, representative of the Democratic Party of the Crimea Mykhaylo (Mareyev) added in support of Fedorenko.

Really, [words indistinct] to go to rest in the Crimea where interethnic hostility is flaring up near the legislature. Given this situation, can the declaration on some sort of accord be signed? At first, this accord should be reached and only later—reported on. This is the reason why in addition to the Crimean section of the Ukrainian Republican Party, the declaration was not signed by the Crimean Civil Congress. The signature of the Crimean Tatars mejlis is also absent under the text of the declaration. Its representative was present in the assembly hall as an observer. The Communist Party of the Crimea refused even to observe this ceremony. So, was it really worth [words indistinct] with the signing of the declaration when there is no actual interparty and interethnic accord?

Presidential Election Difficulties Viewed

AU2004175494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 16 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Volodymyr Skachko, HOLOS UKRAYINY columnist: "Stalemate as a Possible Development. Presidential Elections: More Problems Than Certainty"]

[Text] A typical, and in many ways determining feature of the parliamentary elections campaign in Ukraine is the fact that its completion coincided in time with the start of the presidential elections campaign, which started, in accordance with the law, 90 days prior to 26 June 1994. It is precisely this coincidence that has immediately revealed, first, several real threats to the presidential elections and, therefore, also to the sociopolitical stability in the country. Second, it has finally become clear to everybody that the contradictions emerging in this connection cannot, in fact, be resolved without violating the current laws. That is to say, one of the most typical characteristics of the "old" Supreme Council's legislative activity has clearly manifested itself: It first adopted laws and then thought them over and figured out how to implement them in such a way that they would be fulfilled. However, let us analyze everything in order.

Threat One

It has already become obvious that, in accordance with the provisions of the law on presidential elections, there may simply be not enough time, since, on 27 April, the nomination and registering of candidates for Ukrainian president must be completed. Today, it is known that only the Socialist and Social Democratic parties have officially agreed to take part in the presidential elections. The Socialists have even been issued their first registration certificate. However, nobody has heard of personal nominations from those parties; there are no names. There did appear some information to the effect that 515 Chernihiv citizens had nominated ex-prime minister L. Kuchma as a candidate for president, but nobody knows for sure what is next. It is, therefore, necessary either to speed up the process of nomination or to change the norms of the law. The latter may only be effected by the Supreme Council, whose last meeting has been appointed for 22 April. Then there will be days off [Saturday and Sunday] and the "difficult day," Monday.... In short, there remain only 10 days, but who cares about the political consequences of this situation? However, this is not the main point.

Threat Two

This is the main threat, as everything else emanates from it. It is clear today that candidates must be nominated to the post of president, who is, in accordance with the current constitution, the head of both the state and the executive power. However, it is known that the old parliament agreed to reconsider the division of functions in the upper echelons of power. There is still no law on this. Instead, the law on the 26 June elections to local power structures was adopted. In accordance with it, in the case of electing these bodies, the institution of presidential representatives in provinces will be abolished. In other words, a constitutional crisis of contradiction automatically arises. The president remains head of the executive power, but the executive vertically subordinated to him and to the government becomes abolished.

Well, it is not known today what kind of president we are going to elect, and this considerably complicates the task of compiling preelection programs for possible presidential candidates. It is simply not known what to promise to the people and on what platform to enlist supporters,

without risking to become, excuse me for the word, a charlatan, if the law on the redistribution of powers is not adopted in favor of the presidential power. Incidentally, [President] L. Kravchuk had in mind precisely this when he refused to be registered as a presidential candidate.

Threat Three

Today, the fate of the president in Ukraine is totally unknown. The new parliament may object to the existence of such an institution and simply abolish it. It may then transpire that, on the one hand, there are people wishing to become candidates and there even are presidential candidates who started their election campaign, but there is no institution of the presidency. It is futile to expect that the new law on the new powers for the Ukrainian president will be adopted by the present Supreme Council on 22 April and, as a result, it will be necessary to wait for the first plenary session of the new parliament. It is not yet known when it will be held. Nor is it known whether the new parliament will be able to elaborate and adopt the new law in a constructive and efficient manner.

Suppose that there are no presidential candidates until the new parliament ultimately makes a ruling on the issue of the presidency, and that the new parliament will convene in the middle of May and will adopt the necessary law. Then, there still remains one question: How about the 90 days assigned for holding the presidential election campaign? There only are three possible variants: Either to change the current law on presidential elections, to violate it openly and hold elections within shorter time limits, or to postpone the presidential elections by several months. In any case, there will suddenly emerge other problems: What kind of president will it be if he is elected in a hurry? What will be the attitude of those political forces, which demanded the presidential elections, to their postponement? What will be done about the law on holding the elections on 26 June? What will be done about the elections of local power bodies, and so on?

Head of the Ukrainian Presidential Legal Service Ivan Tymchenko said that there may also be the following variant with regard to the Ukrainian presidency other than its abolishment without elections: First, the president will be elected in accordance with the current constitution and then a new entry will be made in the new one to the effect that there is no presidency in Ukraine, and then the president will resign ahead of time. Second, the elections will proceed in accordance with the current constitution, but in the new Main Law it will be specified that the president is only the head of state and therefore, some of the powers for which people voted will be taken away from the president. I. Tymchenko clearly referred to the above situations as a "legislative deception of the voters," something that may only lead to one thing—a constitutional crisis, when nobody will know what to govern and how to govern. In addition to that, for example, the institution of the presidency is provided for in our current constitution, and in order to abolish it, it is either necessary to make corresponding changes in the Main Law or, again, adopt corresponding constitutional laws, something which is practically impossible to accomplish with an incomplete composition of the deputies corps.

Threat Four

Let us imagine that the elections did take place and resulted in electing a president as the head of state, and local bodies of representative power whose heads will also preside over the local administrations. This situation will not simply be one of stalemate. It will be disastrous for the integrity of the state, because there are no levers for the center to influence the local power bodies and no mechanisms for determining the responsibility for the failure to fulfill the laws or general state programs. Nationwide elections of local leaders may turn them into de facto princes, Ukraine's federalization will be brought about spontaneously and, instead of an integral and balanced state organism, there will emerge a disintegrated state structure composed of centrifugally oriented territories. Besides, the new parliament may also turn completely into a place for competition among regional deputations, as, in our single-chamber Supreme Council, there is no special body (like, for example, a chamber for the issues of territories), which might take care of balancing relations between the center and regions.

Consequently, in the situation which has taken shape today, it is difficult to draw any constructive conclusions. It is difficult to dispel an impression that the prevailing mood among the ruling elite is "well, things will somehow settle down," and this mood has absolutely nothing to do with laws. Are we going to look for our separate Ukrainian road. In other words, will we proceed from the principle: It's your property and your fire, so burn it if you desire! Despite the laws?...

Repeat Supreme Council Election Set for 24 Jul

LD2004200094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1645 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—UNIAN has learned from reliable sources that the Central Electoral Commission has ruled the holding of repeat elections on 24 July in constituencies where the election was invalid or neither of the candidates was elected. A recent sitting of Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium proposed to hold repeat elections to the Ukrainian Parliament at the same time as the second round of local elections, that is, on 10 July. However, the Central Electoral Commission has calculated that this period would not be long enough for all the stages of election envisaged by the electoral law: Nomination and registration of candidates, election campaign, etc., of which it has informed Ukraine's Supreme Council presidium in writing.

Consultations Begin on West's Nuclear Arms Aid

LD2004083794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev 20 April TASS—Ukrainian Vice-Premier Valeri Shmarov said at multilateral consultations in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday that several projects and programms on liquidating nuclear weapons and conversion are of top priority for Ukraine.

They were offered for consideration to several Western countries which expressed a desire to give aid to Ukraine in this sphere.

The main attention was given to projects concerning the conversion of munitions factories, their reorientation on the output of civil products, solution of social problems, construction of housing for retiring servicemen and their retraining to learn civil professions and trades.

Asked by journalists to comment on this important event, Shmarov said: "It is very pleasant that many states as well as influential international organisations responded to our problems of liquidating nuclear weapons.

"This is a great political support for us. As for real economic aid, we hope for receiving what they can give."

Group Seeks Cancellation of Chernobyl Plant Edict

AU2004112494 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 19 Apr 94 p 3

["Appeal by the Ukrainian Peace Council and by the Ukrainian Peace Foundation"; Kiev, 14 April 1994]

[Text] The peace-loving public of Ukraine has been, and continues to seek the suspension of the operation of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES]. We sincerely rejoiced when the Supreme Council adopted its decision on suspending the operation of this notorious monster. However, unfortunately, ignoring public opinion and without holding a nationwide discussion, a decision was adopted in secrecy not only on the resumption of the Chernobyl AES operation, but also on commissioning new units at the Zaporizhzhya, Khmelnytskyy, and Rivne AES, as well as on a significant expansion over the whole of atomic power engineering and even on the creation in Ukraine of a nuclear-fuel cycle, starting from the extraction of uranium ore and ending with reprocessing radioactive waste and its burial. We reiterate that all of this is being planned without the public's knowledge.

At the same time, the International Atomic Energy Agency, as a result of the work of its commission at the Chernobyl AES, arrived at the conclusion that there are many "unresolved problems" at the plant.

For eight years, Chernobyl and other Ukrainian atomic plants have been giving rise to alarm in European countries. The European public, just like us, demands that the dangerous reactors be stopped.

Stressing again the inadmissibility of ignoring public opinion, we are calling upon the Ukrainian president to suspend the action of the unpublished edict on the development of atomic power engineering in Ukraine and to carry an extensive and open discussion of this burning problem.

Kiev, 14 April 1994

Belarus

'Experts' Meet To Assess Defense Conversion

WS2004193194 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A regular meeting of Belarusian and U.S. experts to discuss issues related to the conversion of Belarusian defense industry enterprises with U.S. assistance was held in Minsk today.

The Belarusian delegation, headed by First Deputy Defense Minister Alyaksandr Tushinski, and the U.S. delegation, headed by [name indistinct], chairman of the bilateral program for conversion, detailed the program for building at U.S. expense housing for Belarusian officers and warrant officers who are transferred to the strategic forces reserves. Specific terms for converting giant Belarusian defense industry enterprises—the Productive Association Integral, BELOMO, and Productive Association of Computer Equipment—were also discussed.

Karpenka Presents Platform, Rejects Money Merger

WS2104093894 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] My slogan in the presidential election campaign will be: Social accord and unity of all the people residing on Belarusian territory. This was said by Genadz Karpenka, candidate for the post of the first Belarusian president, at a news conference held on 19 April. Among the primary problems Karpenka singled out that will have to be resolved if he were to be elected were housing construction, the transformation of plants and factories into joint-stock enterprises, and the development of economic ties with all the CIS states including our close neighbors. For the first time ever, the candidate presented his viewpoint on the agricultural sector. He spoke skeptically about the treaty on unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia. In his opinion, the current quite difficult situation should be resolved by economic measures, rather than by joining the ruble zone. Karpenka added that the main task is to make plants work, while money is only a by-product.

Finance Minister on Monetary Merger, Exchange Rate

WS2004191094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Details that were not put on paper but resulted from the agreement on unification of monetary systems signed in Moscow became the subject of Belarusian Finance Minister Stsyapan Yanchuk's interview with BELINFORM and the State Committee for Radio and Television.

During the interview, which was held on the evening of 19 April at the House of Government, the minister stressed a number of points, which no one has addressed aloud. He said that despite the declared procedures for exchanging legal Belarusian tender for Russian rubles, the revaluation of key assets of enterprises will be conducted by all means. A correcting ratio will be utilized. The Republic should independently look for a source to settle the difference between the value of the Belarusian and Russian ruble for the exchange of money held in the savings accounts of Belarusian citizens. In addition, both in Russia and Belarus, a black market exchange rate for the U.S. dollar is used, therefore, when setting an exchange rate of Belarusian hares for Russian rubles, the black market exchange rate must be taken into consideration.

The finance minister also answered a variety of other questions.

Radiation Complicates Use of Russian-Vacated Land

WS2004135094 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 12-18 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by SIM: "Russian Troops Left Their Bases and Radiation"]

[Text] The ecological problems of disarmament will be discussed at a planned seminar at Narach lake under the auspices of the Belarusian Defense Ministry, the State Committee for Ecology, and the Belarusian Academy of Sciences.

An area of more than 4.5 million hectares has been vacated after the withdrawal of certain units of the Russian Strategic Missile Forces. Use of this land, however, has been complicated by the fact that increased radiation has been observed at numerous sites. For example, in Marina Horka—one of the Russian units' bases—the level of radiation exceeds the norm by 10 times. There have been reports that radioactive emitters, which were used for didactical purposes, were stored here. The lack of controls and natural aging of the emitters have led to the increased radiation levels. At Rechytsa, a radioactive waste dump which has been handed over to the Belarusian Interior Ministry, radiation is detectable within 200 meters of the perimeter. Since the dumping ground is located in an unprotected forest area, the local citizens—unaware of any danger—are taking advantage of nature's bounty there.

Moldova

Snegur on Upcoming Dniester Leaders Meeting

LD2004105394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1008 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 20 April, TASS—"A new meeting of the Moldovan leadership with leaders of the breakaway Dniester Republic is expected to be held

shortly. It will be attended by representatives from the CSCE and by the Russian president's special envoy," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told the newspaper ZEMLYA I LYUDI.

"But already before that meeting," he stressed, "all the barriers, obstructing economic relations between the left-hand and right-hand banks of the Dniester will be eliminated."

According to Snegur, customs barriers and other control services of the two sides will be abolished and traffic will be reopened across the presently blocked bridges."

The president again stressed that the Moldovan parliament would soon discuss the question of granting a special legal status to towns and villages with a compact Gagauz population. "After all," he noted, "nobody is encroaching upon the integrity of the state. They merely want autonomy within Moldova. Gagauz representatives had themselves stated that they could not imagine their existence outside the Republic. The point is to decentralise the government, to transfer some of its functions to the local administration, and to give broader opportunities for developing the market relations."

The Moldovan leader noted that "if the Republic shuts up in its purely national shell, it will not get any support from the civilised world. Moldova's prestige on the international arena will depend on how it observes human rights, on the state of inter-ethnic relations within the country."

Former Security Minister Discusses Dniester

AU1904153594 Bucharest EXPRES MAGAZIN Romanian 13-20 Apr, pp 6, 7

[Interview with Anatol Plugaru, former minister of national security of the Republic of Moldova, by Iulian Chifu, place and date not given: "The Solution for the Conflict in Dniester Region Is To Establish a NATO Base on the Other Bank of the Dniester River"]

[Text]

The Political Race Follows Its Course

[Chifu] Mr. Plugaru, your activity has been closely connected with the period of the war in the Dniester region. How come that the Republic of Moldova became divided into two parts?

[Plugaru] The site where God places us becomes an advantage only when we know how to make use of it, the way in, which, for example, Stefan cel Mare [ruler of Moldova in the 15th century] did. If we do not do it, others will make use of it in their own interests, the way Russia did in the past and continues to do today. When it became clear that the "union" with Russia will not live long, some wise Russians found the way to calm down the "display of sovereignty." Thus, the malady called the Moldovan Dniester Republic appeared on the banks of the Dniester River and it finds solid support in the 14th Russian Army. There was much dispute on the issue of this strip of land, just like in all the other places where the Russians are not pleased with the locals. The Russians consider all the locals to be bad sorts. The Russians believe that their rights are violated, they are oppressed, they are not bosses everywhere, and on top of it, they are asked to speak the language of the locals. The Russians are not used to all this. If the world is not good, the world has to be changed, because all those Moldovans, Georgians, Latvians, and others are demanding too much. While in Russia—the country that has assumed the responsibility to protect all of them from good or from evil, throughout this "immense homeland," and the country that has suffered from birth of an insatiable hunger for foreign lands—the great political race is in full swing and each participant in the race wants to acquire more and more land for Russia. We have to accept the thought that Russia can be led only by those who become the winners in this race, which might also be called chauvinism. Because all those who do not practice chauvinism have no place in the Olympus of the Russian leadership. Everything that is happening in the world today speaks of Russia's increasingly aggressive and unstoppable intention to preserve what it conquered in the past and to gain new spheres of influence. Thus, it is clear that the Dniester region as well as other areas where Russia has its own interest will still suffer if no cure is found soon to this malady.

[Chifu] What is the role of the 14th Army in Dniester? Who are the enemies from whom this Army has to defend the Russian Federation in Tiraspol?

[Plugaru] No mater how strange it seems, and although the big politics are not made in Chisinau, all the cure that we need can be found here at home. First of all I am referring to our location, since we are at the crossroads of the world. We must understand that this place is suitable for all kind of exercises, military occupation, coups, counter-coups, and for the utilization of all kinds of weapons aimed in all directions; certainly, all this in the name and interest of Russia. We can also notice that the 14th Army faces a beautiful and prosperous country that is called Turkey, with which Russia has been "friends" for centuries on end.

I am not familiar with Russia's military doctrine and its secret plans, thus I do not know whom it has in mind for the role of the next most-probable adversary. However, I know very well that, still, in the time of the Soviet Union, nobody in the Command of the South-West Armies, located in Chisinau, was concealing for whom the missiles in our forests, the planes in Marculesti and Bolgrad, the airborne troops in Chisinau, the means of communication, and all the other facilities of the 14th Army were meant. Greece is not too far away either, not to speak of Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, or Italy. I do not believe that these countries feel too much at ease knowing that General Lebed [head of the 14th Army] is in Dniester—who initially promised to hang all the Moldovan leaders—or knowing that there is a loony in Russia's State Duma who wants to wash his boots not

only in the Mediterranean, but also in the Indian Ocean [Vladimir Zhirinovskiy]. Or, maybe they put their hope in the one who recently chided Nixon, because he thought they were sitting and having a drink [Yeltsin]. Poor of him, he could hardly stand. And just think that he has access to the button that can destroy the world.

One can hear rumors that he will be demoted soon. Let them do it, it is their problem. But what if the loony comes to power? Needless to say that these people were not appointed and did not seize power, but were elected by and are dear to tens of millions of Russians. As far as Lebed is concerned, I believe that due to his outstanding qualities, he will advance in position and will be soon one of the leaders of Russia's Armed Forces. And if what he does is called saving Russia, we have to expect other promotions as well.

The State of Neutrality Is Convenient If You Have Means With Which To Defend Yourself [subhead]

[Chifu] Nevertheless, what solution do you see to these problems? How do you think that the current leadership in Moldova and the West should act?

[Plugaru] I believe that one of the solutions would be to establish a modern military base on the other bank of the Dniester River. Whose base should that be? Whoever you wish, because in our situation it is the same for us. Certainly, the country with which we have the best understanding should have priority, but at the same time, that country should have everything necessary to make the presence of the Russian troops in this part of Moldova unnecessary. I believe that the most suitable country would be Turkey. It has the means and the reason, and it is also familiar with these places... However, it is essential for us to open our doors and tell the whole world what our problem is. A part of the world will get scared, others will decide against getting involved, and others, who have the means with which to face Russia, you can be sure will come and will even thank us. Probably, the country or the groups of countries that will accept the proposal, will establish a base in two-three months and will bring over everything that they need. It is Russia that should worry about the rest.

[Chifu] Recently, the Republic of Moldova signed the Partnership for Peace. How does this act match all that you have suggested and the neutrality for which people voted on 6 March at the same time when the opinion poll "What People Advise" was held?

[Plugaru] We will have to be patient with the already proclaimed neutrality, because we have no other choice. Neutrality is fine, but only when you have means with which to defend yourself, or you have guarantees that somebody is ready to defend you. It is not sufficient, and even dangerous, to limit ourselves to measures such as Partnership for Peace. All these things for which you have to pay nothing, will result in nothing. Such things are good, but they mean only a first step, nothing else, and only as long as Russia does not do anything foolish. Those who invented the idea of the Partnership for Peace meant well, but you see, Russia did not like it, it does not like to be isolated, so it came at once to sit at the big table. We should not have illusions that this would ensure the preservation of peace in the region. Were we not members of the United Nations when Russia, a member of the same organization, attacked us in summer 1992 in Dniester? Europe and the new world have signed, and will still continue to sign, alliances, blocs, pacts, and all kinds of treaties but, ever since the world began, the powerful ones were the ones who started wars. People like us were witnesses, victims, or were simply ignored. Certainly you can feel like the United States and Japan, or can even look like them, but this will not make you stronger. Power has always been and will continue to be decisive. And the powerful ones know each other. Thus, we should not rail against relations with Russia. Although nobody can rely on today's Russia—it does not know itself what is happening to it—however, willingly or unwillingly, we have to accept friendship with it because we have no other choice. But to completely lose our self-esteem, the way Russia wants, is not possible either. If we preserve out self-esteem and we want the world to respect us, we should know how to convey to Russia the message to forget its intentions. That is what I meant when I talked about a small military base to oppose the Tiraspol base.

[Chifu] How will Russia react to such an initiative?

[Plugaru] Officially, it has no say in it because it is our own business with whom we associate and what we do at home, and Russia's borders are far away from us. Certainly, it would try to stop us by putting pressure on those who make decisions on such matters. Nevertheless, in the end it will accept it because there are countries in this world with which Russia is compelled to speak with respect and with much deference. Apart from that, it might be possible that the separatist tendencies that have engulfed Russia will inevitably lead to its dismantlement and, one day, when it has no time to think about the Dniester region, it will have to give up this region. What we are suggesting will help Russia to reach this conclusion sooner. At the same time, we do not really have a choice, there are not that many variations from which we can choose or that many ways in which to cut the Gordian Knot.

Mature Countries Are No Longer Fighting, They Are Distributing Weapons to Others

[Chifu] The Republic of Moldova is currently holding negotiations for the withdrawal of the 14th Army from its territory. What will be the fate of that army?

[Plugaru] All these negotiation for the withdrawal of the 14th Army, unconditionally or on certain conditions, have been both this year and the year before, just talks held in vain. These negotiations have to be held because there is nothing better to do and Russia has to be told every day that it is occupying a part of our land and that it has to gather in all those weapons that it distributed to bandits. Nevertheless, ultimately the negotiations will

not lead to the withdrawal of the 14th Army. It cannot happen because it is at variance with Russia's strategic interests. It does not matter that today the nature of wars has changed somehow, namely rich countries are no longer fighting but rather distributing weapons to others, leaving them to shoot each other and then, it can purchase what is left for peanuts. Mature countries are conquering new territories, new assets, however not through military operations but economic ones. In our case, the importance of military operations is still topical because Russia has not reached the stage of economic operations. It is just training at the expense of the former Soviet republics.

Thus, Russia will not leave so easily and so soon. You can rest assured that if today Russia's reason for staying is that it has to preserve peace in this area and defend Russians from who knows whom, tomorrow, when it becomes clear for everybody that this is just an excuse not to leave this area, it will invent another excuse. And how could Russia possible leave? While it stays in the Dniester region, it does what it wants in the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine. Even in Ukraine, a country that allowed the separatists to emerge and flourish. The affirmation that, all this time while we were occupied, including the time of the conflict, Ukraine has been neutral or even helped us, is pure demagogy. As a matter of fact, Ukraine refused to open the joint border crossing points that would have been more useful for both sides and that would have isolated the criminals in Tiraspol from the whole world. Certainly, the separatists and the 14th Army would not have dared fire at these joint points because they would have started a war with Ukraine. But, to our great regret, Ukraine certainly remained "neutral" only in words, because everything that emerged from Dniester on land, water, or air, crossed Ukraine.

[Chifu] Nevertheless, how does Ukraine view the presence of the 14th Army, under conditions of dissent with Russia on the issue of Black Sea fleet and especially the Crimea region?

[Plugaru] Ukraine feels the real pain in its Western side. It feels that it will hear the noise of shooting from those weapons that were crossing the "neutral" Ukraine. Only God knows how much military technology has been collected in Dniester region. From this place the Russians do what they want with Romania. Because I have to tell you truthfully, the 14th Army has modern systems of electronic radio espionage devices. They are working hard on systems to intercept telephone connections from a distance, and there are other devices for stealing information in general, because this part in territory of the Republic of Moldova is a wonderful intermediary base for the activity of Russian secret services. From what other part could Russia's security services come closer to Moldova or Romania? Its agents feel in their element in this part of the world. There are practically no serious restrictions that might hamper their free circulation on the Russia-Tiraspol-Chisinau-Bucharest route. It does not matter anymore what depth into Romania Lebed's technology reached.

Romania Should Never Forget Where the Policy Promoted by King Carol II Led

[Chifu] What is Romania's role in this region?

[Plugaru] I believe that, first of all, we should ask the question: Is Russia indeed the country that wants a stronger and independent Greater Romania? If the answer is yes, then long live Russia and the 14th Army. But what if the answer is no? How can we face it? What is our army today and what can it do? What is the Romanian Army compared to Russia's and when did Russia produce the weapons that Romania's armed forces are using today? I do not believe that the recent replacement of General Spiroiu [former Romanian defense Minister] is connected with the answer to this question, just as it has no connection with the other changes that took place in Bucharest. New commotion and turmoil in the structures that must ensure state security never led to anything good. However, if too much garbage has been collected, it is good to dispose of it, otherwise it will dispose of you. However, Romania must never forget where the policy promoted by King Carol II led. If one wishes for the country to be united at home, one should take into account what is happening around it. It is not possible that one has no trustworthy allies.

[Chifu] You said that "they cannot make us unite." Are you in favor of unification?

[Plugaru] Mr. Chifu, one cannot just foolishly shout "unification" without knowing the answer to a few questions in advance: What is Russia's attitude and possible reaction? What will the Hungarians and Bulgarians do? What will Ukraine say, although it is in a state of discord with Russia? Who would benefit from a united Romania? Which of the superpowers will support us? And who will want to stop us? It is important to know things, not only to wish for them and also to be able to act, not only today but tomorrow too, and even in the most unfavorable circumstances. If you do not exactly know what you are doing and you are just feeling your way, then it does not matter whether you are a lunatic or insane person, or somebody just got hold of you and you are working for him. No one can invent a greater disfavor than this for Romania, for the Republic of Moldova, and for Romanians in general. It is not bad to wish for something and dream about it. What I said does not refer to honest people, who do have great aspirations and who act according to their feelings, because they believe that is the normal thing to do. I am talking about those who make politics without looking around. I am talking about those who are duty-bound to know and to weigh things—as any person, party, or state should do—before calling on masses of people and before moving borders and relations with other people, with or without involving the Army. This is the concern of all of us who in one way or another have made a

contribution to the deterioration of relations with Russia. And I am one of them.

Just look at all the fuss made by Russia about the so-called rights and interests of Russians who live beyond Russia's borders. Have you noticed how, for several month on end, Russian propaganda has been striving to prove to the whole world that ethnic Russians, their fellow citizens, are oppressed and their rights and freedoms are being violated; in short, that they need help!

Since we are in the situation of the small and harassed one, or rather in the situation of the little one who has been beaten up by an older person, it would be advisable if we did not rush in with an answer, because in any event we are going to grow up, while he will be just growing older.

Snegur Signs Decree on Enterprise Debt Payments

AU2004160894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/4/1994—President Mircea Snegur signed today a decree on paying off the arrears and stabilizing the financial situation of Moldovan enterprises and organizations. According to the decree, the National Bank and commercial banks will compensate the mutual debts using the financial means of the enterprises and organizations and budgetary means as well. The Republican and local commissions must compile by 15 May the list of the enterprises with debts and deposit and hard currency accounts opened in the Moldovan commercial banks and abroad; they must count the sums thus deposited. They will have to count the sums of unrepatriated hard currency for the export of goods and services. According to the decree, the Ministry of Finance, the State Central Fiscal Inspectorate and the Financial Guard will levy the delayed payments to the budget from the enterprises' hard currency accounts. The state enterprises and organizations were allowed to sell at auctions as IOU's their debts. According to sources from the Ministry of Finance the mutual debts are over 400-500 million lei.

EBRD To Grant $150 Million Credit by Year End

LD1904172294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 19 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 75 (565) for 19 April 1994; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is expected to provide a $150-million worth of credits to Moldova by the end of this year, Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli told reporters in Kishinev [Chisinau] on Monday. He said that a total of $100 million would be granted in the first half of this year for a glass factory project designed to manufacture bottles for dry and vintage wines and champagne meeting European standards. A further $50 million is to spent for the construction of an environmentally safe power station in the town of Beltsy.

Other projects under discussion include the refurbishment of wine and canned product factories to help increase Moldova's exports to the West as well as a port facility on the Danube river and fast railway line from Kishinev to Yassy. IF Note: Until recently, Moldova depended on IMF and the World Bank for financial aide now running at more than $300 million. EBRD is expected to open credit lines for direct financing of the country's key economic sectors including vineries and wine industry which account for 45 percent of its annual foreign earnings. The project covers 10 vineries, which can help toward higher wine exports when updated. This year, Moldova is expected to sell a total of 30 million bottles of champagne, dry and vintage wines which makes up 8-10 percent of the total produced (wine exports to Russia run at 55 percent).

Gagauz Leader Says Conditions Exist for Settlement

LD1904115994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetsky]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] 19 April TASS—Leader of the unrecognised Gagauz Republic Stepan Topal believes that "every condition for the political settlement of the Gagauz problem has been created in Moldova." He told this on Tuesday to ITAR-TASS on a basis of the results of the Monday meeting with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur with whom problems of settlement of the Gagauz problems were, specifically, discussed.

Topal said Snegur had shortly promissed to submit to the Moldovan parliament a draft law on granting a special status to districts predominantly peopled by Gagauz. "We have proposed a draft law on creating the autonomous region Gagauzeri, which largely coincides with Kishinev's proposals and does not run counter to the principles of preserving Moldova's territorial intergity," Topal said. "Their essence is to grant broad powers to local government bodies."

It is of essential importance for Gagauz that the draft keeps the provision of the right of the Gagauz people to self-determination in case Moldova's political status changes, Topal said. "Gagauz wish to have basic guarantees that Moldova keeps on independence track and that we shall not wake up in a different country one fine morning," Topal said.

Poll Shows Sangheli, PDAM Head Popularity List

AU2004153494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1945 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 19/4/1994—Andrei Sangheli strengthened his popularity though his forming of a new ministry cabinet, reduced at his suggestion, commented alongside the poll made by "Axa" service and published in the weekly "MOLODEZH MOLDOVY." The results of the poll show that Premier Sangheli is preferred by 46 percent and Speaker Petru Lucinschi by 31 percent of respondents. In third place of the poll is situated Nicolae Andronic, vice-president of the Moldovan Parliament, preferred by 23 percent of those interviewed. The same poll also charts the popularity of the Parliamentary factions. The Democratic Agrarian Party [PDAM] is the most popular, 67 percent preferred it. The Socialist Party and "Unitate-Edinstvo" Movement received, respectively, 29 percent and 4 percent. The unionist forces have a low popularity compared with the electoral period. This is prompted by an apparent lack of constructive activity. Until now the right wing opposition confined itself only to "undivided rejection and tough, emotive and unfounded attacks against the deputies of the majority faction," states the commentary in "MOLODEZH MOLDOVY."

Newspaper Publishes Romanian Parliament Statement

LD2004161294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] In adopting the decision to join the CIS, the Chisinau parliament reconfirmed the criminal Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and annulled the essential right of the Romanian nation for the integrity of its historic and spiritual territory, says the statement of the chamber of the Romanian parliament's deputies published by the newspaper Tsara, an organ of the Christian Democratic Popular Front of Moldova.

The statement points out that in 1812 and 1940 Bessarabia was torn from its homeland by means of agreements between various powers and despite the will of the Romanian people.

"The events which took place in 1989 and later made us hopeful that Bessarabia would be re-unified with its motherland," asserted the Romanian parliamentarians and said that the USSR Supreme Soviet had called the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact "which tore Bessarabia from Romania in 1940" invalid.

The chamber also gave its backing to Moldova's efforts to be integrated into European structures and "condemns actions of political forces trying to again include Moldova into the previous structures."

Official Concerned by Lower Russian Gas Supplies

LD2004172594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Cutbacks in Russian gas exports to Moldova will hit living standards, Vice Premier Valeriu Bulgaru who is responsible for the agro-industrial complex believes. In an interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday, he said the government was seeking to raise extra funds to be able to clear arrears for gas imports from Russia.

Bulgar said the cabinet was working hard to try to resolve the problem of a trade deficit with Russia.

At the same time, he said the problem of gas imports from Russia was of general concern from government officials down to ordinary consumers. In his view, the mechanisms of a market economy will push energy consumers towards unusual decisionmaking.

On Tuesday, one other Vice Premier Valentin Cunev whose area of responsibility covers transport, construction and energy said that gas supply to industrial consumers would be reduced by a third. He called on consumers to stick to the principle of "reduce consumption if you cannot pay."

Kyrgyzstan

Finance Minister Relieved of Duties

LD2004173494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Kamchibek Shakirov has been relieved of his duties as finance minister for office abuse, sources close to the Kyrgyz leadership told INTERFAX.

The decision on Shakirov's dismissal was made at a government presidium meeting yesterday night. At the last session of the Republic's parliament which ended on 16 April, Shakirov was confronted with the accusation of having granted credits under privileged conditions. The Kyrgyz mass media widely publicized the fact that Shakirov had granted a soft credit worth 2 million sums (Kyrgyz currency) to his son-in-law.

New Administrative Territorial Unit Created

LD2004180294 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] The Zhogorku Kenesh adopted a resolution to unite the city of Tokmak with Chuyskiy Rayon and the city of Naryn with Tianshanskiy Rayon into a single administrative unit. The deputies believe this merger to be expedient and in all respects positive. The bureaucratic staff will be reduced, management of the national economy in the region will be focused on the one hand, agrarians will be more interested in supplying the urban area with food in order to receive industrial goods in return.

Concern Raised Over Increased KGB Powers

944K1085A Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 30 Mar 94 p 2

[Article by K. Kabayev: "This Is Not a Conservatory for You. Everyone Is Monitored Here: Chekists in Kyrgyzia [Kyrgyzstan] Have Started an Apparatus War"]

[Text] Bishkek—"Hello, is this the hospital? No? Then excuse me..."

What does this mean? If you are not a statesman, not an important businessman, or, finally, not a "hard-boiled" journalist, the error can be written off to lousy telephone communications. But, if you fall into the aforementioned category of people, then you should think twice.

A special cable stretches from each of the 16 operating telephone stations in Bishkek to the department with three, now four, initials—GKNB [State Committee for National Security]. The KGB has its own people on each shift at the 16 stations. With some degree of exaggeration, the Ministry of Communications can be safely called a daughter of the KGB firm.

A note with a request to monitor one or another subscriber (addressed to the chairman of the KGB) is submitted by the manager of one of the two leading directorates of the office. After an appropriate endorsement, the paper is returned to the executor. Further, it is a matter of equipment. A ring can be heard at the necessary ATC [automated telephone station]:

"Masha (Aigul, Sveta, Larisa...), hook us up with this number."

Soon a small light shows up on a panel in a special KGB room—"the subscriber is on the line!" In order to determine whether the "object" is in place in the apartment of the person who is "under surveillance," the buzzer rings: "Hello, is this the hospital (hotel, bathhouse, kindergarten, etc.)?" The trustful master of the house replies indignantly that, no, this, he says, is an apartment... As a rule, it is here that the recorder is turned on with each incoming and outgoing telephone call. By the way, the click in the telephone receiver that is described in detective stories cannot be heard. The GB's [state security] apparatus is well balanced. Sometimes conversations are listened to directly. But in both cases in the apartment (or the office), a noticeable deterioration in sound quality occurs. Approval to monitor a telephone is granted for a period of not more than one month; however, this does not mean that the approval cannot be extended. According to the testimony of reliable persons, up to 20 subscribers are monitored in Bishkek each day.

However, the situation in an apartment (or office) can also be monitored without lifting the telephone receiver. In this case, the telephone apparatus itself acts as a microphone. Therefore, knowledgeable people either disconnect the apparatus from the system or turn on a source of additional sound (two is better, in different corners of the room)—a radio, a television set. The author of these lines frequently had occasion to be witness to this during conversations with highly placed Kyrgyz officials.

Notes containing approval for monitoring are supposed to be kept in a special archive. However, if a note is "lost" for any reason, the loss may not even be noticed. Thus, it has become known that in December of 1980, after the murder of Chairman of the Council of Ministers Sultan Ibraimov, several notes of approval and deciphering of telephone conversations of suspected persons disappeared.

With the victory of democracy in Kyrgyzia, discussions about telephone monitoring have not diminished. Complaints and suspicions are coming both from governmental figures and also from journalists and politicians.

There are a lot of examples. When leaving for home Felix Kulov, former vice president of the state, sealed the door of his official office and, while talking with someone, disconnected the telephone apparatus from the system. Topchubek Turgunaliyev, head of the Erk Party, suspecting the "office" of monitoring his telephone, officially appealed to the head of the KGB-GKNB.

Alas, the essence of the department did not change with the change of signboard. Just as in the epoch of totalitarianism, the department continues to engage in political investigation, and it actively intervenes in the affairs of the state and the personal life of its citizens.

After the downfall of communism in the Baltics and Eastern Europe, the state security organs were the masters of the political Olympus for three or four years. With their assist, parliamentarians divided each other into "clean" and "dirty." The chiefs of committees removed objectionable figures from the political arena without particular problems. Undoubtedly, given all its antiespionage (read antistate security) orientation, this prolonged action was managed and coordinated by departments that "were being criticized." It is sufficient to mention that after the accusations of "cooperation with the KGB," Kazimiera Prunskiene was forced to resign as prime minister of Lithuania. But who else could have arranged the compromise of the prime minister except the KGB? No one! The axiom says: "Divulgence of agent information is a matter for the hands of the department that put such agent network together." The intelligence services of Czechoslovakia were able to isolate Aleksandr Dubcek, who recently died in an automobile accident under questionable circumstances. The state security people of Poland were not satisfied with Lech Walesa, who there and then was accused of cooperation with the organs. Moreover, rather convincing documents were leaked to the press.

Kyrgyzia, apparently, is also no exception. In the opinion of a number of former employees of the Kyrgyz KGB, the firm in one way or another controls up to half of the state employees and members of parliament. Some of them were and are secret agents, others were seen in the organs at one time carrying out delicate instructions of the KGB, and still others were driven at one time "to do the devil's work" by writing a denunciation against a neighbor, and the paper providently settled in the "office." Today (as they believe), the publication of three to five names that are well known in the Republic (with a specific demonstration of their agent activity) is capable of causing a profound governmental and parliamentary crisis.

Getting ahead of the story, it should be noted that with this, apparently, these state security people have captured parliamentarians who are scared to death. At the last session of the Kyrgyz parliament the people's representatives unanimously passed a law concerning the organs of state security.

According to this law, the Chekists acquired the right of unimpeded entry into dwellings "and other premises belonging to citizens" (a reason will always be found!), and the procurator has to be notified of this only after 24 hours. Now state security people can quite informally intervene in the activity of commercial structures, "demand and receive from them necessary information, check the presence of property with registered and current data, and receive information in banks on operations, accounts, and deposits." Where is the guarantee that the commercial information will not be turned over (sold) to competitors afterwards? Where is the guarantee that the Chekists (and today they are graduates of Kyrgyz higher educational institutions who have merely gone through a Bishkek system of personnel selection) will not ruin the firms and organizations they are checking up on? After all, the law does not say a word about the measure of responsibility of the employees of the GKNB in the event of causing moral, physical, or economic damage.

The state security people have retained control over governmental special communications, they have retained for themselves the investigative isolation cells that just a year ago were filled with then "foreign money speculators," though as it turns out today—with legal financial brokers. Now the Chekists, suspecting someone (and, as is known, anyone and everyone can be suspected), can quite informally check the contents of your pockets and go through your car and personal things. Moreover, without the approval of a procurator.

Incidentally, Kyrgyz Chekists now enjoy the use of all types of public transport (except taxis) free of charge.

And more: The services of state security informers will be paid from the republic budget.

Thus, in the most democratic Central Asian republic, the parliamentarians not only did not restrict the activity of its monster, but, on the contrary, placed it above all society, having legalized the penetration of all spheres of Kyrgyz state, public, and economic life.

Only the president has the last word. After all, whether the law on state security organs passed by the deputies will be confirmed depends only on him. But the president is keeping silent... for the time being.

Tajikistan

Inter-Tajik Communique on Refugees Signed

LD1904203694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] A communique on Tajik refugees was signed in Moscow on Tuesday during the first round of talks between representatives of Dushanbe and Tajik opposition, INTERFAX learned from one of the members of the opposition delegation.

The communique envisages the registration of all Tajik refugees who are currently outside their homeland. After the registration the UN should start giving them aid on a regular basis. So far, according to one of the Tajik opposition leaders Akbar Turadzhonzod, the aid was granted to only one camp of 22,000 people in Afghanistan.

The inter-Tajik talks will continue in Islamabad (Pakistan) and Teheran (Iran) in a month, the personal representative of the UN General Secretary for Tajikistan Ramiro Piriz Ballon said at a press conference. He also noted the constructive role played by Moscow in the inter-Tajik settlement. Answering questions by journalists, Ballon said that he sees no contradiction in the fact that Russia has geopolitical interests in Tajikistan.

INTERFAX learned that late on 19 April the Tajik Government delegation is to return to Dushanbe.

First Round of Talks Ends

LD2004171494 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The first round of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation that were held under the aegis of the United Nations Organization has completed its work in the city of Moscow of the Russian Federation.

The participants in the talks signed a protocol on setting up a joint commission on the problems of Tajikistan refugees. The protocol says that the participants of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation under the aegis of the United Nations Organization arrived at the following agreement:

To set up a joint commission on the problems of the Tajik refugees on an equal basis between of representatives of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the opposition, in particular, the Umed Foundation [Tajik opposition fund to render assistance to compatriots abroad] from 19 April 1994. The joint commission will work within the framework of the course of talks and coordinate its activity with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in those countries the Tajik refugees are. The joint commission could set up working groups and bring in experts when it is necessary. The participants of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation asked the United Nations to render financial assistance to the joint commission.

A joint communique was adopted on the results of the first round of the inter-Tajik talks. The joint communique says that the first round of the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation took place in the city of Moscow under the aegis of the United Nations, with participation of observers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan from 5-19 April of the current year.

The Tajikistan Government delegation was led by Shukurjon Zuhurov, the minister of labor and employment. The opposition delegation was led by Otakhon Latifi, the chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Democratic Forces of Tajikistan in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Ambassador Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the United Nations secretary general's special envoy was a mediator in the course of talks. The talks were held in a working, open, and mutual understanding atmosphere. Both sides (?showed themselves really in favor of) a solution to the package of difficult political, military, humanitarian, social, and economic issues that appeared as a result of political conflict and fratricidal war in the Republic of Tajikistan. The talks participants have approved and adopted the agenda of talks during all rounds that are as follows:

1. Measures on the political settlement of the situation in Tajikistan.
2. Solution to the problems of refugees.
3. Issues relating to the construction of constitutional structures and strengthening of the state structure of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The sides decided to discuss all three groups of issues as a whole and to express their opinion on all the issues, in particular the agenda of talks in the working documents. The sides and the United Nations secretary general's special envoy approved the joint communique of the inter-Tajik talks and adopted a decision to urge the Tajikistan Government and the Tajik opposition forces not to jeopardize the talks. The sides have signed a protocol on setting up a joint commission on resolving the problems of Tajik refugees.

The sides have expressed gratitude to all the states that rendered assistance to the Tajik refugees, as well as to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other international organizations. The sides expressed their readiness to achieve national reconciliation only through political dialogue. With this purpose, on the basis of the previous agreement on changing the venue of talks, the sides decided to ask the United Nations secretary general's special envoy to hold meetings on the venue and date for the second and third rounds of the inter-Tajik talk.

The sides have expressed gratitude to the Russian Federation Government for the hospitality, assistance, and cooperation in organizing and holding the first round of talks in Moscow.

Similarly, the sides have expressed gratitude to the United Nations secretary general and Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, his special envoy, as well as to the representatives of those states who acted as observers at the talks for their assistance and cooperation in organizing and holding the inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation.

Talks 'Completely Satisfactory'

LD2004220294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] "The outcome of the inter-Tajik talks held in Moscow can be qualified as "completely satisfactory." The main thing is that a dialogue began, and that it proceeded constructively enough. It's also indicative that the launch of the negotiating mechanism led to lowering the intensity of violations on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan," the Director of the 3d Asian Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry, Yuriy Kotov, told INTERFAX on Wednesday.

According to him, "nothing great" was expected from the talks in Moscow. "We did not expect the two sides to reach comprehensive agreements at once. It's gratifying enough that they worked out an extensive agenda, adopted a statement on the need to refrain from any actions conducive to complicating the process of talks, agreed to form a commission on refugees, and coordinated a joint communique," the diplomat said.

Opposition Leader Urges Provisional Government

LD2004165394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Leader of the Tajik opposition Akbar Turadjonzoda has stressed the need to create in Tajikistan a provisional government from among those who did not take part in the "internecine war." He was speaking in an INTERFAX interview after the first round of inter-Tajik talks ended in Moscow.

The opposition does not seek power, the people should take a decision concerning who should rule on the basis of multi-party elections, said Turadjonzoda.

"We stand for close ties with Russia, we understand and recognize its interests in Central Asian. No one can replace Russia as partner of Tajikistan, and Tajikistan cannot exist without Russia, he believes.

The opposition leader said that during two-week talks in Moscow the two sides only elaborated the agenda and signed the communique on refugees which envisages their registration and UN aid. The next round of talks will be held in Islamabad (Pakistan) or Tehran (Iran). Turadjonzoda said that UN representatives proposed to start talks on 23-25 May. This, however, does not suit the opposition because this coincides with Moslem holidays. The talks will obviously begin later, he said.

He said that difficulties on solving the problem of refugees are caused by the fact that Dushanbe is unable to provide full guarantees for them. Practically 50 per cent of Tajik families have suffered to some degree at the hands of the Dushanbe regime, he said. People do not want to return and live under this regime, said Turadjonzoda.

He said that it is necessary to adopt a Tajik Constitution. Not now, as Dushanbe would like, but after the refugees return, he said. A civil war is going on in Tajikistan, a state of emergency imposed and political parties banned. It is impossible to hold elections and referendums under such conditions. This is humiliating for democracy, he said.

'Sources' Say Opposition Planning New Provocations

LD2004164894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridnyova]

[Text] Dushanbe 20 April TASS—The Tajik opposition is preparing new provocations on the Tajik-Afghan border to destabilise the situation in the region and foil the second round of inter-Tajik talks due to take place either in Tehran or Islamabad, competent sources in Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS.

The sources said that Tajik opposition forces based in the Afghan provinces of Kunduz and Takhar are planning a series of attacks on Russian border outposts and Tajik border villages. There is also information indicating their intention to mine one of the sections of the Tajik-Afghan border patrolled by the Pyanj border troop unit. Mobile terrorist groups have been concentrated near the Imam Sahib Province, and weapons and military machinery are being brought in.

The sources claimed they had proof that the go-ahead to proceed with acts of terrorism was given by the government in exile led by Tajik national Sa'id Abdullo Nuri. The acts will be carried out by field commanders from the so-called Kumsangir-Pyanj resistance front.

The sources said all these activities are taking place in the districts controlled by the Afghan military whose leaders have repeatedly confirmed their readiness to help stabilise the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border and prevent provocations.

Turkmenistan

Reportage on PRC Prime Minister's Visit

Issues Statement on Arrival

LD2004170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1525 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 20 Apr—Li Peng, chairman of the Chinese State Council, arrived in Ashkhabad this afternoon. He was met at the airport by Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov.

A written statement by Li Peng was issued in the Turkmen capital. It says: "China and Turkmenistan are friendly neighboring countries. Links between our peoples are rooted deeply in time. The Great Silk Road united the peoples of our countries more than 2,000 years ago. Once diplomatic relations were established between China and Turkmenistan, the traditional friendly relations were developed anew."

The statement stresses that "China attaches great significance to the development of relations with Turkmenistan and that there are broad prospects for their manifold development."

Li Peng and Niyazov left the airport for the residence allocated to the guest where they had a brief conversation.

Niyazov Comments

LD2104062894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0615 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] 21 April ITAR-TASS—Chinese Premier Li Peng today continues his official visit to Turkmenistan.

On the eve of his arrival, the local press published a series of statements on relations between Turkmenistan and China by President Saparmurad Niyazov. Niyazov described these relations as having great perspectives.

"China is a great country, and its role in the Asian-Pacific region and the entire world is considerable," Turkmenistan's president said.

"We have no intention of copying somebody's model uncritically," Turkmenistan's leader said. "Along with this we are studying carefully and interestedly China's economic reform experience."

The head of the Chinese Government is on a 12-day tour of the Central Asian countries, including Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. These visits were planned in spring of last year but had to be postponed because of the premier's unexpected illness.

Starts Talks With Li Peng

LD2104080494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashkhabad [Ashgabat], 21 Apr—Turkmen-Chinese summit talks started in Ashkhabad today. Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and Li Peng, premier of the PRC State Council, have started discussing specific issues relating to the development of economic cooperation.

Journalists were allowed to be present only for the first few minutes of the meeting. However, these first few minutes did reveal that the meeting was exclusively about business. An understanding has virtually been reached on the purchase of Turkmen cotton by China.

Alongside the official talks, discussion is under way of draft intergovernmental agreements. These center on matters relating to projects for sending Turkmen gas to China and a number of other commercial and economic cooperation issues.

Uzbekistan

PRC Supports Regional Security, Stability Efforts

LD2004221994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1340 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Excerpts] Tashkent, 20 Apr—Maintaining political stability and further economic development in the countries of Central Asia not only meets the fundamental interests of the countries of that region, but is also of important significance for the preservation of peace in Asia and throughout the world. This is stated in an information report issued today by the Chinese delegation on the results of the official visit to Uzbekistan by Chinese State Council Chairman Li Peng. China, it stresses, supports the efforts of the Uzbek Government in strengthening regional security and stability, steadying the situation in the country, and developing the national economy.

Li Peng left for Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] in the afternoon. [passage omitted]

Speaking to Uzbek parliamentarians on Tuesday [19 April], the head of the Chinese Government described the PRC's policy in relation to the Central Asian republics of the former USSR who are now living through difficulties that are typical of the whole post-Soviet situation. The four points of China's current policy in this region, which is populated mainly by Muslims, include: A policy of good-neighborliness, friendship, and peaceful coexistence, a rejection of hegemonism and a policy of force, mutually advantageous cooperation with the purpose of assisting general prosperity, and the development of trade and economic ties, respect for the choice of the peoples of all countries, recognition of the variety of models of development, and the right of choice of a social system, respect for independence and sovereignty, and assistance in regional stability.

Li Peng stressed that the development of relations between China and the Central Asian states is not directed against any third country. It is our wish that the Central Asian states live in harmony and develop friendly relations with all countries, including Russia and the other CIS states, he said. [passage omitted]

Today, the PRC State Council chairman visited the Tashkent Valeriy Chkalov Aviation Works. Last year China leased from Uzbekistan seven Il-76 heavy aircraft.

Li Peng Visits Tashkent Aircraft Works

LD2004173094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent Mukhtar Ganiyev from Tashkent, including recorded remarks by Uzbek President Islam Karimov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] We have received a report from Tashkent today on the visit to the Uzbek capital by Chinese State Council Chairman Li Peng.

[Ganiyev] Superpowers should not take upon themselves to resolve all of the world's problems, PRC State Council Prime Minister Li Peng said yesterday at a meeting with the parliament and public of Uzbekistan. No matter what model of development that states take, they have

equal rights in the world community. This was the main idea in his speech that was heard here as part of the program.

The official Chinese delegation familiarized themselves with the operation of the Chkalov aviation production association in Tashkent this morning. I will remind you that besides buying Uzbekistan's traditional goods, China also purchases IL-76 transport aircraft here. The Republic has dozens of joint enterprises with China, the goods from, which are in great demand. When acquainting himself with what is a unique enterprise for this region, the head of the Chinese Government expressed the hope—during his short interview especially for our program—that the visit will open up new prospects for cooperation between China and Uzbekistan.

[Karimov] The visit by the prime minister of the Chinese People's Republic is not only of political significance to us, but of economic significance as well. First and foremost, it is of economic importance because we have so many unused reserves when it comes to economic cooperation that it can be seen at a glance.

Karimov Issues Decree on Control of Foreign Currency

LD2004215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov has issued a decree on regulations of export and import operations in foreign currency. The decree provides for an efficient control over currency earnings and its utilization when exporting services and commodities.

In accordance with the decree, Uzbek enterprises and organizations cannot settle their accounts on export and import with foreign partners through foreign banks.

The decree forbids legal entities to sell or pass over the quotas on export of services and commodities to other participants in the foreign economic activities. The Uzbek Ministry of Justice has been proposed to establish juridical responsibility of legal entities and individuals for violation of the order imposed on export and import operations in foreign currency.

Trading Launched on Republic Currency Exchange

PM2104084594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Adilbek Kaipbergenov: "The Sum Does Not Weigh Down the Pocket"]

[Text] The first trading has taken place on the Republic currency exchange in Tashkent. In accordance with its results, as of 16 April the Central Bank of Uzbekistan established the rates for foreign currencies against the national currency. Thus, the U.S. dollar is worth 3,637 sum-coupons, and the Russian ruble is worth 2.04 (on the black market—10).

Another item of news—for the country's guests. As of last Saturday, according to an explanation by a Central Bank spokesman, they can pay in local bills when buying an air or rail ticket, when checking into a hotel, etc., if they present a corresponding receipt from a legal exchange point.

Armenia

Azerbaijani Army Moves on Southeast Karabakh

NC2004140694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0803 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Stepanakert, April 20 (SNARK)—Today morning, after intensive artillery shelling, the units of Azerbaijani army passed to offensive at south-eastern sector of Karabakh-Azerbaijan front. Press-service of Karabakh Defence Army informs, a great number of military hardware and infantry is taking part in the offensive. According to data received by midday, there are stubborn fightings at this sector, and both of the sides have losses.

Today, it is calm at the others sectors of the front, including southern part of Mardakertskiy region where there have been furious fightings for the last ten days.

Failed Offensive Reported

NC2004135594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service reports no incidents on the border since last night.

But tension has increased in the southeast of the Karabakh war front. According to the information available to the press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army Headquarters this morning, following a fierce artillery barrage, the Azerbaijani Army launched an attack toward Fizuli. Many armored cars and infantry were thrown into the battle.

The Karabakh forces stopped the enemy's attacks at 1100 today, inflicting considerable losses on it.

Relative calm prevailed in the north of Mardakertskiy Rayon at noon today. Fierce battles have been going on for the past few days.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Speaks to Ministry, Rayon Officials

NC2004115994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1645 GMT 18 Apr 94

["Text" of speech by President Geydar Aliyev at the enlarged meeting of the heads of rayon executive authorities and leading ministry and law enforcement officials in the presidential offices on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed participants of this convocation; this meeting is of an extraordinary nature. It is related to the fighting in the front-line areas and the measures that are required in that regard. It is common knowledge that the Armenian military forces moved on 9 and 10 April to intensify their aggression and attacks on Azerbaijan's territory and our positions on the front lines. They have maintained their attacks until now.

We asked that talks be held to end the attacks. It is common knowledge that I appealed to Azerbaijan's people through the radio and television network on 12 April. Furthermore, I appealed to the Armenian leaders, the Armenian people, the Armenian and Azerbaijani citizens in Daghlyk [Nagorno] Karabakh, the international community, the CIS leaders, and international organizations to inform them about the situation. I stressed that Azerbaijan demands that the attacks be halted, peace talks be held, and the necessary agreement be reached.

The international community and foreign countries reacted favorably to my appeal. Regrettably, the Armenian side and the Armenian military forces have maintained their claims and tried to distort the situation. They have been trying to blame Azerbaijan for the attacks.

It is common knowledge that the CIS heads of state held a summit in Moscow on 14 and 15 April. I held talks with President Boris Yeltsin during the summit. I also held talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin; Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; several CIS heads of state; and President Levon-Ter Petrosyan. I made an official speech on 15 April. That speech has been broadcast by the television networks and published in the press. You are already aware of it. I stressed that the CIS cannot remain indifferent toward the fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In particular, it must take concrete measures to obstruct the Armenian military forces' latest attacks. A debate was held on my proposals. Later, a joint communique by the CIS heads of state was approved. That, too, has been published in the newspapers. It said that the CIS heads of state have considered the fact that the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia have expressed support for a cease-fire agreement. Yes, I expressed support for a cease-fire agreement.

Other views also were expressed. You are already aware of them. However, regardless of the joint communique by the CIS heads of state, the Armenian military subunits fired on Azerbaijan's positions and attacked them from various directions on 15 and 16 April. Serious and bloody fighting took place yesterday, last night, and today. All that has shown that the Armenian leaders have rejected our peace initiatives. Although they purport to agree, they continue to maintain their approach, which is aimed at forcing Azerbaijan to accept an agreement which will be in their favor.

You have been informed through the television reports that I expressed my views on the very recent Armenian attacks during the closed session of the CIS heads of state. A debate was held on the matter. Journalists asked me and President Ter-Petrosyan to comment on the matter during the press conference that was held after the summit. I briefly explained the situation. However, President Ter- Petrosyan said that Armenia is not involved in the war and that the fighting is between Azerbaijan and Daghlyk Karabakh. Furthermore, he stressed that Armenia is prepared to sign Russia's

[peace] plan together with all the participants of the CIS summit. However, the question is as follows: What right does Armenia have to sign that plan if it is not a party in the war? Obviously, the Armenian officials have exposed their approach.

All that may be regarded as an interesting development. However, not for us. What is important for us is the maintenance of our present positions and the defense of our republic's territory. Regrettably, I wish to reiterate that we have suffered severely from the unending Armenian attacks. We have lost many people. Bloody clashes took place in several residential areas yesterday. Some of them were lost and then taken back. The situation changes every day. Therefore, establishing what goes on is impossible. However, it is common knowledge that the Armenian military forces have launched very strong attacks. That is a fact. We must also admit that their attacks have been at a very professional level.

Meanwhile, we have been informed from the front-line areas that those attacks have not been organized only by the Armenian military forces. Observations indicate that foreign forces have been involved in the organization and launching of those attacks. That state of affairs has greatly exacerbated the situation in the front-line areas.

I must also stress on the basis of the information I have received that the Azerbaijan military sub-units have retaliated against the serious and devastating attacks appropriately. They are bleeding and dying to become martyrs in the effort to defend the homeland. Of course, they have been confronted with difficulties. They have been forced to withdraw in various places. Nevertheless, they have continued to defend our territory.

I was informed this morning that Ferhat Askerov, who was named a national hero in view of his services during the fighting in Shusha in 1992, was martyred while heroically fighting to defend Sumu in Agdamskiy Rayon last night. But, there are others as well. I have mentioned his name because he was a renowned national hero. Many of our people have been martyred while fighting to defend our homeland's territory. That is very natural. That state of affairs is an indication of our people's and Army's heroic nature and courage. It is also an indication of the fact that our people can block the Armenian attacks more effectively and skillfully in the future.

I urge you to observe a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of the sons and citizens of Azerbaijan who have been martyred in the latest fighting. [silence observed to commemorate martyrs; Aliyev continues]

God bless their souls. I convey my condolences to the families of all our martyrs. I wish to assure them on behalf of Azerbaijan's people that they will never be forgotten. They will always be remembered by Azerbaijan's people as heroes. Their heroic services will strengthen and elevate Azerbaijan's people and create the basis for the safeguarding of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

Regrettably, I also wish to stress that some of our citizens have acted in a cowardly way and deserted from the front lines. Some of them fled to save their lives. Regrettably, that state of affairs is still continuing. That is a situation that weakens our defenses and keeps us from retaliating against the Armenian attacks in an appropriate way. Undoubtedly, no one will treat the cowards and deserters respectfully. Furthermore, no one will treat their families and relatives respectfully. They will always be hated by the community. I am convinced that they will be brought to account in accordance with our laws.

I feel the need to reiterate a point that I stressed in my radio and television speech on 12 April. We have serious problems in the effort we are making to organize our army and find the necessary officers and men for the military units. That is due to the inefficient maintenance of the state of mobilization and to the cases of desertions from the military units, that is, in addition to desertions from the front lines.

The matter was seriously discussed during the meetings that were held by the leaders of the rayon executive authorities and military commissars in Beylagan and Barda on 11 and 12 April. We gave serious instructions to the leaders of the rayon executive authorities and administrative organs to strengthen their struggle against such cases. The main task of each and every individual and the officials in particular is to contribute toward the effort made to provide men and officers for the military units, establish discipline, and obstruct desertions. Another more serious task does not exist. Nothing can be done in connection with the pending economic and political measures and nothing can be done to meet the wishes of the people because we shall be defeated if we fail to defend our territory. The enemy forces will advance to occupy the remaining part of our territory. Who will survive after that is unknown.

In view of that, I am obliged to reiterate that what I have mentioned is our main task and problem. The developments that took place in the front-line areas on 15, 16, and 17 April indicate that we have failed to change that state of affairs. We face a serious situation at the present time. We have made several peace initiatives. We have had recourse to the CIS. The CIS issued an important statement on 15 April that noted that the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to immediately implement a cease-fire agreement. However, the Armenian military forces launched strong attacks against Azerbaijan's positions on the same day. Apparently, the peace initiatives have failed to yield results.

President Boris Yeltsin emphatically agreed in our private talks and in the general convocations we had later that a cease-fire agreement has to be imposed. He emphatically asked me and President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to move to end the shooting. President Yeltsin also said that he would even visit Azerbaijan and Armenia to help us resolve the matter if we do not object. However, the strong attacks by the Armenian military forces on 15, 16, and 17 April, that is, shortly after the

talks we had with President Yeltsin, showed that the Armenians do not attach importance to talks and statements. They only wish to pursue their aggressive intentions and maintain their aggressive policies.

We have appealed to the international organizations. My appeal was conveyed to them through our channels on 12 April. It was conveyed to the UN organization, the UN Security Council, the CSCE, and all the heads of state. However, the Armenian aggressors have not drawn any conclusion from the developments. They have maintained their aggressive and occupationist policies and their activities within the framework of those policies.

Considering that state of affairs, our most important and urgent task is to establish our Army, provide the necessary manpower for our military units, help the Army, and stop desertions. How many of you are here in this meeting hall? How many of you can sincerely say that you have effectively fulfilled that task? I have not been able to see anyone who has done that in this meeting hall.

Everyone believes that others must fulfill that task but whether he himself does so does not matter. Therefore, I wish to ask: Why are we trying to defend our homeland? Why should Azerbaijan continue to exist? When are we going to rid ourselves of Armenia's aggression? When are we going to guarantee the defense of our people?

We have discussed all those matters. However, considering the fact that the necessary result has not been achieved, I have decided to invite you to attend this extraordinary meeting. We do not need a lot of time. I do not know how things are for others, but each and every moment is very important for us. So, we must hold substantial talks in this meeting hall. We must do everything we can today, tomorrow, and in the next few days to see to it that the requirements of the state of mobilization in the Republic are quickly fulfilled. We must establish new military units from our reserves. We must also help the Army in other respects. We must take the necessary measures in the front-line areas.

I was informed from the front lines last night that the Barda Battalion's troops fled in the vicinity of Terter. I was forced to call the executive authority in Barda to ask why the men from that rayon fled. Barda and Terter are so close to each other that there is nowhere to go. I was informed by the head of the executive authority a few hours later that he went to the area and instructed his men to return to their posts. Why has that situation come to pass? Why should the head of an executive authority run here and there to collect his men from this or that town in the night? However, that is not the only case.

I have conveyed my views to you on our heroic fighters and martyrs, particularly on Ferhat Askerov, who became a national hero in Shusha. The deserters have defamed and dishonored Azerbaijan's people and worsened our present situation. In view of that, I believe that we must discuss the concrete measures we need at the present time.

The matters that should be discussed are crystal clear. However, I wish to outline the tasks to be fulfilled:

First, I wish to stress that the quarterly task related to the military call-up must be fulfilled. That task requires that the head of the executive authority, military commissar, chief of police, procurator, and head of the state security administration in each and every rayon, city, and locality personally control every issue, including the fulfillment of the quarterly task of the military call-up. Fulfilling that task does not mean that you will go and transfer the matter in question to the military commissar's office and then come back to report that you have fulfilled your task. No, that is not the way to fulfill your duties. You are responsible. You will see to it that recruits apply to the assembly points. You will follow the way they are drafted in the assembly points. Furthermore, you will control how they fulfill their military obligations in the military ranks for some time. I do not wish to make calls in the future to say that the Barda Battalion, Koykey Battalion, Mingechaur Battalion, and this or that battalion have abandoned their positions. I do not want any official to inform me two or three days later that he has done what was necessary. That is your obligation. You must always keep your duties in mind. You must follow the men from your rayons to establish the way they serve in the military forces.

I received a call before I left for Moscow. It informed me that the Khachmas Battalion in Agdamskiy Rayon dispersed and fled. I called the head of the Khachmas Executive Authority at 0100 in the morning. I forced him to go to Agdamskiy Rayon to reorganize his men. Is that my job? Should I be doing that? Why do we have officials serving as heads of executive authorities if I have to instruct or force them to fulfill their duties? Therefore, you are responsible not only to fulfill the procedures required for the conscription of recruits but also to see to it that the conscripted recruits report to serve in the military units they are assigned to. You must follow the way they serve. That is your task until this state of affairs ends. Undoubtedly, each and every rayon will be instructed in that regard.

However, I wish to appeal to the executive authorities, leading officials, and the esteemed people of the occupied rayons as follows: The people of your rayons have become refugees. They are living in various areas. Many of them are unemployed. Instructions must be given to those rayons because they had many young men. They must join the military units and make an effort to liberate their occupied lands. I do not agree with the view that they will have to fight to liberate other rayons. All the Republic's citizens are equally responsible for the defense of Azerbaijan's territory, regardless of the city or rayon they come from. All the citizens are expected to fulfill their patriotic duty in the same way. Regarding the occupied rayons, I wish to say that the young men from them who are unemployed must join the military ranks to defend Azerbaijan's territory. I believe that that will be an honorable duty for them.

That is the second issue. Let me reiterate that you are responsible for the work in the call-up of recruits and matters related to the mobilization. In fact, all the rayon and city organizations are responsible together with you. That task has to be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, the law enforcement organs must seriously work to establish those who avoid the mobilization and the call-up for conscription. The military commissar's office has proposed that individual centers be established to carry out the work. That system was applied in the past. However, it was not successful. In fact, it led to negative developments from time to time. Therefore, I believe that that is not an appropriate system. Let me stress that the district police inspectors are well aware of the people in the areas they serve. They are well aware who does what, who is employed or unemployed, and who avoids conscription. They are well aware of all that. Therefore, our police organs in particular must concern themselves with the work to be carried out. That also applies to the procuracy organs. Serious and urgent measures must be taken against those who avoid the requirements of the mobilization regime and the call-up for conscription. The people must be urgently informed about the measures.

The number of deserters has increased. We have discussed that many times. The duty of the rayon and city executive authorities and their leading officials must be to establish the deserters in each and every rayon, district, and city and return them to the military forces. Serious work must be carried out in that regard. I have established a deadline for the mobilization and call-up procedures. The requirements of the call-up for conscription must be fulfilled in three days and those of the mobilization in five days. We have allowed 10 days for the return of the deserters to their units. All the deserters must be forced to return to their units in 10 days. I wish to reiterate that charges will not be brought against the deserters who return to their posts. Very serious measures must be taken against those who fail to do so in 10 days.

The number of positive cases in that regard are not few. For example, I can recall the meeting I had with Colonel Elburus Orudzh oglu on 13 April, that is, after my appeal to the people through radio and television on 12 April. He informed me that 100 deserters returned to their units to serve and fight after my appeal. What I mean is that our life is not full of only negative developments. We also have many positive developments. However, we do not mention them often much because our general situation is unfavorable. I was very happy to be informed of the situation by Colonel Elburus Orudzh oglu 24 hours after my appeal. I agree that 100 men is not a large force. However, they wished to correct the mistake they made. They rushed to rejoin their military units on the front lines. They joined the fighting. That was a move worthy of respect and attention. That was not the only case. There were many more.

Therefore, serious work has to be carried out in 10 days. The deserters must be returned to their units. The matter requires serious attention. The procuracy and other investigation organs must take serious measures to bring the deserters who fail to return in 10 days to account. I am convinced that our procuracy and judicial organs will effectively and accurately apply the laws and the provisions of the Republic's criminal code. I am also convinced that the work they carry out will create the conditions we need to change our general situation.

I wish to particularly outline the work to be carried out by the military commissars. You have observed that I have assigned all these tasks to the leaders of the executive authorities, the police, procuracy, and security organs, and the military commanders. Actually, the matter mainly concerns the military commissars. They must concern themselves with that work. However, we have said several times that the military commissars have not been able to successfully fulfill their duties. In fact, they do not wish to do so because of certain reasons. In view of that, I wish to stress that I am not satisfied with the work of the military commissars. The Republic's military commissar has disclosed in this meeting hall that a criminal investigation has been initiated against several military commissars. I wish to urge that the work in that regard be quickly carried out and the people be informed of their mistakes.

Considering the need to establish discipline and law and order in that field, I have decided to take action as of today. That is as follows: The appointment and discharge of the military commissars must be subject to the approval of the presidential apparatus.

The matter was transferred to the Defense Ministry. Regrettably, serious shortcomings have been allowed by the Defense Ministry on that matter until now. Therefore, I will instruct the presidential apparatus to study the situation of all the military commissars and advise me as to which military commissar can or cannot work in the future. That information must be conveyed to me in 10 days. I will decide on the matter. Undoubtedly, I will do so on the basis of your detailed reports. You will establish who can or cannot work in 10 days. I will instruct the defense minister today to comply with that rule. I will instruct that military commissars be neither appointed nor discharged without the consent of the presidential apparatus and that the research be carried out in 10 days. Undoubtedly, the research must be carried out in cooperation with the Defense Ministry. However, I wish to recommend that the president's adviser also participate in that process.

Speaking in this meeting hall, the Republic's military commissar has expressed his opinion on the work of several military commissars. I have received information that the work of Lieutenant Colonel Amirov Gusayn Miral oglu, military commissar of Dzhelalabadskiy Rayon; Major Rakhimov Vadim Ferman oglu, military commissar of Kuba Rayon; and Lieutenant Colonel [first

name indistinct] Orudzh Ferhad oglu, military commissar of Masally Rayon, has been very unsatisfactory. As such, they have been unable to fulfill their duties. I am removing them from their posts as of this moment. Furthermore, I am instructing Minister of Defense Mamedov to issue orders for their removal from their posts in accordance with my instructions in two hours. Send them to the front-line areas.

Complaints have been made against the work of the police organs. We have received information from several rayons from time to time that the police organs disobey the executive authority and that the head of the executive authority is unable to control them. We have also received information that arguments take place between the procuracy and that the police organs and the head of the executive authority are unable to resolve this or that problem. All that undermines discipline and law and order and worsens the situation. We cannot accept such a state of affairs. Therefore, I wish to underline the following: The head of the rayon executive authorities are the representatives of the president. They are accountable to the president on every development in the rayons. Therefore, all the rayon organs are subordinate to the heads of the rayon executive authorities and they must work together. However, that does not mean that the heads of the rayon executive authorities can do anything they like. No, that is not so. I am asking for businesslike relations between the heads of the executive authorities and the rayon organs. Under the existing grave conditions, I want everyone to help each other. I want the clashes and arguments between them from time to time to be put aside.

The heads of the executive authorities are competent officials. They must use their authority. However, the authority that has been transferred to them has placed significant responsibility on their shoulders. That responsibility requires them to set an example for all the other organs in every domain, including work, morale, and loyalty to obligations. If they fail, then they cannot fulfill their obligations.

The arguments among the administrative organs in the rayons must be removed. I do not wish to go into detail on that matter. The administrative organs must work together. They must cooperate to fulfill the main tasks. I expect the heads of the executive authorities to see to that matter.

Suggestions have been made to the effect that we have to take additional measures because of the serious situation in the Republic. Yes, similar suggestions were also made in the past. The Republic is in a state of war. Our life and activities must be reorganized in accordance with the demands of the military situation. The people must realize until that is done that everyone can be called to defend the homeland. The situation at the present time is that a part of the community is in the front line areas. They are fighting. Our officers and men in the military forces are fighting. They are being killed every day. Many of the refugees are in a very miserable condition. However, a certain group of people have a comfortable life, particularly in Baku. They are not concerned with the war. Nor are they concerned with the situation of the people who live under grave conditions. They have plenty to eat and drink. However, they must not display it. Entertaining in restaurants and other places will not help our situation at the present time.

I have stressed several times that nothing can be more effective than the experience we have gained in the past. The people lived in the same way during World War II. Consumption of bread was 400 or 500 grams per person. That applied to everyone. No one tried to get double that amount. Naturally, there were exceptions. However, they were very few. Unfortunately, certain people eat, drink, and entertain in the restaurants at the present time. They do not think about the continuing bloodshed. They do not think about the people who are dying of hunger. Furthermore, they make suggestions on how this or that should be done.

In view of that, I believe that the demand for the declaration of a state of war for the strengthening of discipline is justified. We must consider that state of affairs and take the necessary measures. Meanwhile, I wish to appeal to our people to conscientiously consider the way we live at the present time. Everyone must live in accordance with the conditions of war and defend our territory. Any other alternative does not exist.

The Republic's military commissar has said that several decrees are inappropriate. That viewpoint was also expressed earlier. I do not know why changes have not been made. Who is responsible for making proposals to have the decrees changed? Is it the military or the legal advisers? They should have done so. If the matter concerns the presidential decrees, then proposals should be made to the presidential apparatus. If laws have to be changed, then the National Assembly should take action to resolve the matter in three or four days. I wish to instruct the presidential adviser on military affairs and the legal department of the presidential apparatus to draw up their proposals in three days.

I wish to assure you that the serious talks we had in this meeting will yield results. We shall make changes in various fields in the near future. I wish to stress that I am convinced that Azerbaijan's people and the officials they have trusted and placed in high-level positions are aware of how grave the present situation is for our republic. They will draw the necessary conclusions and take the necessary measures.

Thank you. I wish you success in the effort you will make to fulfill your tasks.

New U.S. Ambassador Presents Credentials

NC2104035994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev today received the U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our Republic, Richard Kozlaric. Our correspondent Sakit Ochakhly reports:

[Begin Ochakhly recording] New U.S. Ambassador Richard Kozlaric presented his credentials to Geydar Aliyev at the presidential residence today. The ambassador noted that as the official representative of the United States in Azerbaijan he will do everything to develop bilateral ties in a healthy spirit and broaden ties in the social, political, scientific, and cultural fields.

Kozlaric also stated that in his new post he will use every means to objectively convey the developments in Azerbaijan to the international community, primarily to the country he represents, and to speedily end the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He also said that the agreement to be signed with Azerbaijan's oil company will open a new phase in economic cooperation.

President Aliyev congratulated Kozlaric on his appointment as the U.S. ambassador to our Republic and wished him success in such a responsible task. The president noted that the development of diplomatic relations with a great country like the United States would help to establish closer ties between the two peoples.

Aliyev briefed the new ambassador on the sociopolitical situation in Azerbaijan, Armenia's aggressive policy, and the results of the meeting of CIS heads of state in Moscow. He noted that everyone knows the problems faced by a country 20 percent of the land of which has been occupied and that has over 1 million refugees, yet the United States has imposed an embargo on humanitarian assistance to Azerbaijan. He hoped that the new ambassador would appraise developments and the situation realistically and inform his country that Armenia is an occupying state.

Later a frank talk was held between Aliyev and Kozlaric. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. [end recording]

Georgia

Geneva Talks Envoy Says Negotiations Fruitless

LD2104083694 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] The "Alioni" program welcomes you, Batono Jaba [Ioseliani, chairman of the Georgian State Emergency Committee]. Together with television viewers we are expecting your report on the Georgian-Abkhaz talks in Geneva.

[Ioseliani] Good morning. What are you interested in?

[Announcer] What happened yesterday at the meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz delegations? Some documents were to be discussed yesterday, I mean the documents worked out by UN and Russian diplomats.

[Ioseliani] This document could have been used as the basis but it was impossible to accept it in its present form. The Abkhaz side yesterday suggested a completely unacceptable plan—as could have been expected—to legalize what they gained after the war. They are trying to breach Georgia's territorial integrity and create a union of the two states, create a confederation which will mean that there will be Georgia and Abkhazia. They [Georgia and Abkhazia] would conclude an alliance which would have a mutual body to regulate these two states. This suggestion was completely unacceptable for the United Nations, the Security Council, for us, and for everybody. But there is an intermediate plan put forward by the United Nations and the Russians and we are working on it now. We shall see what will happen, although we have no great hopes because yesterday they [the UN and the Russians] said that it was the maximum that they could suggest as our [Georgians'] suggestions were unacceptable for them [Abkhazians] and vice versa.

[Announcer] Batono Jaba, are the places where the peacekeeping forces will be deployed mentioned in the documents, or is this still to be discussed?

[Ioseliani] The question now is the political status [of Abkhazia]. As you know, the issue of deployment has fallen through. The Abkhazians then demanded the unacceptable: If the peacekeeping forces were to enter the territory adjacent to the Inguri river—it was specified in the agreement that the UN peacekeeping forces would have been deployed in the conflict zone—the Abkhazians demanded that peacekeeping forces also enter the territories near Zugdidi. I do not think that anything will be resolved today but we must still work on it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained! And besides, the world must learn what we are suggesting from the point of view of the political settlement. Probably everything will have been finished by tomorrow because I think nothing will happen today.

[Announcer] You have been listening to a member of the [Georgian] delegation at the Georgian-Abkhaz talks in Geneva.

Talks Fail Over Russian Troop Status

MK2004075094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr 94 p 1

[Vitaliy Denisov report from Tbilisi under the "News" rubric: "Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus: What Do We Call You Now?"]

[Text] The talks of a delegation of the Georgian parliament with deputies of the Russian Federation State Duma on Russian military bases have ended in failure.

As Revaz Adamiya, member of the Georgian parliament, has stated, the draft agreement proposed by the Russian side was turned down over fundamental differences in views on the status of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus.

Official on Peacekeepers' Deployment

LD2004173394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] "The deployment of any forces in Abkhazia without its leadership's consent is ruled out," the chairman of Abkhazia's parliament, Vladislav Ardzinba, told Interfax on Wednesday.

With reference to the possible participation of military contingents from CIS countries in the peace-keeping forces in Abkhazia he said that "it is possible only in the framework of documents signed on April 4."

In comments on the talks on Abkhazia's political status which began in Geneva on Tuesday Ardzinba stressed that "there is no alternative to peace negotiations." According to him, when taking part in the negotiating process Abkhazia proceeds from the agreements signed in Moscow on April 4." "On the contrary, the Georgian side seems to have forgotten about it," the Abkhazian leader pointed out.

As he said, the statement made on Georgian radio on Monday by the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, as to "the possibility of resolving the conflict militarily", cannot be understood in any other way. According to Ardzinba, this is "a gross violation of the documents signed in Moscow."

On April 4 in Moscow the two sides signed a statement on ways to reach a political solution to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict and an agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons.

Abkhazia Defense Minister on Inguri Situation

LD2004161094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1101 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Abkhazia's Defense Minister Sultan Sosnaliyev considers it unlikely that hostilities between the Abkhazian and Georgian formations will resume along the confrontation line of the Inguri river. "We are not moving and our opponents do not have enough forces to inflict a strike," Sosnaliyev declared in an interview with Interfax. As he said, the situation on the Inguri river "is very calm now."

Sosnaliyev pointed out that the Abkhazian army does not intend to cross Abkhazia's "historic border" and to occupy Georgian territory. At the same time he said that "as a result of the defeat of the Georgian army we could cross the Inguri river and move further on."

Sosnaliyev talked about the strong support given by Russia's Caucasian republics to Abkhazia. He said that this would not allow Moscow to render widescale military assistance to Georgia while relations with Abkhazia were not regulated. "Russia should bear in mind the Caucasian factor," he underlined.

Sosnaliyev reported that as many as 12,000 volunteers from the North Caucuses had been fighting on the Abkhaz side. "If it is necessary, this number can be increased to 50,000," he said.

Speaking about the situation in Abkhazia's Kondor canyon where Georgian armed detachments have been blocked, Sosnaliyev reported that no hostilities are going on there. The Abkhaz side proposed to the Georgian fighters to lay down their arms and guaranteed their safety. There was no answer to this proposal.

Sultan Sosnaliyev, aged 52, is a Kabardinian, a colonel of the former Soviet Army. He was commander of a regiment and then chief of one of the aviation colleges.

In August 1992 when the Georgian army entered Abkhazia, Sosnaliyev headed the republic's Military council. In December 1992 he was chief of the army headquarters and in May 1993—Abkhazia's Defense Minister. In April 1993 Abkhazian parliament awarded him the rank of Mayor General and in December—of Lieutenant General.

'Ethnic Cleansing' Continues in Sukumi

LD2004201594 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] According to EVRAZIA news agency, the ethnic cleansing of Georgians continues in Sukhumi.

Thirty Georgians, mainly old people, were evicted from Sukhumi on 15 April. Those people who do not obey the separatists' demands to leave their own homes invariably disappear.

Confrontation between the so-called pure-blooded Abkhazians and the Abkhazians of Georgian descent, grows day by day. According to the separatists, Georgian Abkhazians must not be trusted. In their opinion they [Georgian Abkhazians] are fickle and if the situation should change, they will side with the Georgians. Therefore, the so-called pure Abkhazians are creating specialized armed formations for liquidating Georgian Abkhazians. These formations do not spare other nationalities either. A clear example of the above-mentioned is the mass carnage of the Greek population in the village of Odishi by the separatists. [passage omitted]

Deputy Interior Minister Killed in 'Terrorist Act'

LD2004121394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi April 20 TASS—Georgian Deputy Interior Minister Georgi Gulua, 38, who headed Georgian Transport Police, fell another victim of terrorist acts this morning. He and his two subordinates were riddled with bullets when they were driving to his office. Terrorists escaped from the place of crime unidentified.

This is the eighth terrorist act in Georgia against a high-ranking government official over the past few

months. Law enforcement bodies could not identify executors of assassinations even once.

Head of the State Security Service Igor Georgadze told journalists at a recent news conference that Georgia is living through a period of fierce struggle between mafia clans, and that terrorist acts are inevitable.

Shevardnadze, Turkmen Officials Discuss Gas Payments

LD2004181494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of State, received Mr. Kananabeldy, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supplies of the Republic of Turkmenistan, who led a delegation of Turkmen industrialists on their visit in Tbilisi.

The aim of the delegation's visit to Georgia was to choose agricultural and industrial products in exchange for Georgia's still unpaid debt. The Turkmen side once again showed its full understanding of the current complex economic situation in the republic, which was reflected in the fact that Georgia will supply Turkmenistan with Georgian products in exchange for 3 billion cubic meters of gas worth several million U.S. dollars, as envisaged in the bilateral agreement signed in 1994. Meanwhile, our Turkmen friends accepted the prices suggested by us.

The head of state thanked the Turkmen side for their fruitful cooperation and understanding of our problems. Shevardnadze said: Our republic's population knows very well about your realistic support, and we will do everything to carry out our responsibilities.

At the meeting, Shevardnadze raised the issue of the importance of finding new and economically useful ways to transport Turkmen gas to Georgia and other countries.

Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Deputy Prime Minister Zurab Kervalishvili, and other officials were present at the meeting.

Estonia

Laar, Gore Sign Investment, Trade Agreements

WS2004160694 Tallinn BNS in English 1206 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 20, BNS—The agreements on the protection and promotion of investments, on trade relations and protection of intellectual property, signed by Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar and U.S. Vice President Al Gore in Washington Tuesday [19 April], are another step in the development of economic relations between the two countries after the 1992 agreement on trade and investments.

The first of the two agreements, on the promotion and protection of investments, gives both countries a most favored status in investments with each other. The document also includes guarantees against expropriation, and sets the right to freely transfer profits, the Estonian Embassy in Washington says.

It defines the investors' rights on the territory of the other party in the agreement, as well as rules for the settlement of disputes. The document determines the fields of the economy where the countries have the right to introduce more favorable conditions for local investors.

The second agreement signed on Tuesday contains two separate sections. The section on trade relations covers different areas of trade except for textiles and clothes—a sphere that is to be regulated under a separate agreement.

Section Two of the document in about the protection of intellectual property. This is the first agreement to be signed by Estonia with a foreign country that in a detailed manner establishes rules for the protection of intellectual property rights.

Further on Gore Meeting

WS2004142294 Tallinn BNS in English 0922 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] TALLINN, Apr 20, BNS - Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar on his visit to the United States met with Vice President Al Gore in Washington Tuesday [19 April].

Laar in his remarks to the Voice of America ahead of the meeting said getting a reconfirmation of America's support to the demand for an early withdrawal of Russian troops for Estonia was one of the main aims of his visit. This, as well as economic cooperation are also to top the list at the meeting with the Vice President, he said.

"At this meeting a number of very important agreements on economic cooperation will be signed," Laar told VOA.

Commenting later on the outcome of the meeting with Al Gore, Laar said "the American side was in a very concrete manner ready to respond to our main proposals." He said it now depends on Estonia's other departments how quickly (the work on) these agreements will proceed, the PAEVALEHT newspaper reports with reference to VOA.

Laar had meetings with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on Monday. The prime minister said that Estonia had received very strong support to the demand that Russian troops be pulled out of the country by Aug. 31. [passage omitted]

President Meets NATO Northern Forces Chief

WS2004124094 Tallinn ETA in English 0822 GMT 20 Apr 94

[From 20 April PAEVALEHT, EESTI SENUMID, p 1, 3; "News Bulletin" No. 75/94]

[Text] Wednesday, April 20—Commander in Chief of the NATO Northern group of forces General Garry Johnson met President Lennart Meri yesterday. Commander in Chief of the Estonian Defence Forces General Aleksander Einseln, General Johnson's assistant Colonel Bob Hendicott and aide Captain Tim Warrington attended the meeting.

General Johnson and President Meri discussed the development prospects of the Estonian Defence Forces. General Johnson assured that the NATO will further support Estonia. He also described the results of his recent visit to Russia. The Russian military leaders assured General Johnson that the troops will be withdrawn from Estonia in an orderly way and no military bases will be established here, the NATO general said.

President Meri held a dinner in honour of General and Mrs Johnson.

The NATO general also met Foreign Minister Juri Luik and Defence Minister Indrek Kannik yesterday. They discussed Estonian-Russian relations, security in the Baltic region and Estonia's cooperation with NATO.

General Johnson is to leave Estonia today.

Johnson Comments on Visit

LD2004125194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The commander in chief of the NATO northern group, Gen Garry Johnson, ended today his three-day visit to Estonia. He stayed here at the invitation of Maj-Gen Aleksandr Einseln, commander of the Estonian defense forces. He had meetings with President Lennart Meri, Foreign Minister Juri Luik, and Defense Minister Indrek Kannik. Before leaving, the general gave a brief news conference at the airport. Marit Pukk reports:

[Pukk] The general assessed his Estonian visit as useful, first and foremost, from the standpoint of an exchange of information. What was discussed at the meetings with the Estonian leaders?

[Begin Johnson recording, in English fading into Estonian translation] What we've been talking about is developing the cooperation that already exists between the Estonian defense forces and NATO... [end recording]

[Pukk] At the meetings there was talk about the opportunities of strengthening the cooperation between NATO and Estonian defense forces that already exists. Such is the NATO Partnership for Peace Program that Estonia has already joined. Also Estonian defense officers are welcome guests at the headquarters of the NATO northern group in Norway, and units of the Estonian defense forces are welcome to participate with the status as observers at the exercises of NATO forces that take place in Norway and also in Denmark.

The general mentioned as specific assistance by the NATO, the training and continuation of training of Estonian officers in Norway and Denmark. An Estonian representative will soon go to the headquarters of the NATO forces of Europe in Brussels. He will begin to coordinate the mentioned work.

In response to a question on what the general thought of the relations between Estonia and Russia, especially of the Russian troops still staying here, he said:

[Begin Johnson recording, in English fading into Estonian translation] [words indistinct] the relationships between two independent sovereign countries (?are not clear)... [end recording]

[Pukk] This is not, of course, for me to comment upon, as this concerns the mutual relationships between two independent countries. But the (?fault) it could be said is that [35-second break in transmission]

[Begin Einseln recording, in progress] ...then Lt (?Lants) will accompany me to Brussels next week, and he will remain there and begin work. Since all this is new to NATO as well, then naturally, how this will finally be worked out will be shown by time. [end recording]

[Pukk] General Johnson flew from Tallinn for a one-day visit to Riga. From there he will go further to Vilnius. After that he (?will go) to his headquarters in Norway where next week he must report on the results of the [words indistinct] On the basis of that report, the leadership of the NATO European forces will make a further specified program of work within the Partnership for Peace Program in the Baltic countries.

Armed Forces Chief Seeks Russian Cooperation

LD2004193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1608 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] What are often emotional, negative statements by Estonian journalists and politicians about the Russian military will be a thing of the past after Russia has withdrawn its troops from Estonia and it will be possible to develop cooperation with the "eastern neighbor's" armed forces, Estonia's commander-in-chief said.

"We are neighbors and must live together in peace instead of threatening each other with our fists all the time," Major-General Aleksander Einseln said to Interfax before his departure for Moscow on Wednesday. At the same time, Russian military bases and any other form of Russian military presence in Estonia are "out of the question," he said.

Einseln said one of the main purposes of his trip to Moscow, where he had been invited by the Russian Defense Ministry, was to ensure concrete cooperation at the final stage of Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia. Russia earlier offered to pull out all its troops by August 31 but linked this to the provision of residence permits and social security measures for retired Russian military officers living in Estonia.

Einseln plans to propose setting up a bilateral military commission to quickly and efficiently deal with any troop withdrawal problems.

He said he was on "civil" terms with the command of the Russian forces remaining in Estonia.

Defense Minister Begins Ukraine Visit

WS2004135194 Tallinn BNS in English 0922 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 20, BNS—Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik and a delegation that includes the head of the parliamentary defense commission began a three-day visit to Ukraine today.

Kannik is to meet his Ukrainian counterpart, Army Gen. Vitaliy Radetskyy in the afternoon. The ministers will sign a cooperation agreement between the two Defense Ministries in the evening. Radetskyy will also give a dinner in honor of the Estonian minister.

Kannik is scheduled to have meetings with Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister, Col. Gen. Oliynk, the chief of the country's army supply division, Col. Gen. Mykhaylychenko, as well as with the ministers of Mechanical Industry and Industry. The Estonian minister will lay a wreath to the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Kiev later in the day.

Friday's [22 April] agenda of the visit includes meetings at the Ukrainian Institute of Land Forces and the General Staff.

Kannik's delegation includes the chairman of the Estonian parliament's defense commission, Rein Helme, the country's charge d'affaires in Ukraine, Andrei Birov, Defense Ministry Chancellor Tarmo Molder, Defense Ministry and army Central Staff officials.

'Modern Technology' Employed at Border

PM2004120794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Apr 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Estonia Equips Border With Modern Technology"]

[Text] Construction of modern technical control facilities, including radar, television cameras, and night vision instruments, will begin on the Estonian border this summer.

This was announced in an interview for the paper PAEVALEHT by Tarmo Kyuts, general director of the Estonian border protection department. According to him, at the moment most border guards are equipped only with binoculars and automatic weapons. Kyuts announced that the most difficult section of the border is the "control line with Russia." One of the most profitable criminal occupations there is the trade in "live goods." Border guards are offerd $50 each to help ferry one Kurd across the Russian-Estonian border. Kyuts noted that the organizers of the illegal ferrying of people to the northern countries in Russia and their assistants in Estonia are making millions.

Deputy Parliament Speaker on EU Membership

WS2004190794 Tallinn BNS in English 1505 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 20, BNS—Deputy speaker of the Estonian parliament, Tunne Kelam, in an interview with BNS today said joining the European Union [EU] is what Estonia objectively needs to do.

"This is an objective direction, because we have no other alternative between two different worlds and traditions," he said.

But he said Estonia's movement in the direction of the EU didn't mean turning its back to the East. Kelam said Estonia also in the future will be ready for active trade and communication with the East. "But at present the question is how to make up for the 50-year gap in our relations with the Western countries."

In addition to the global aspect, the European economic and defense organizations are what Estonia hopes will help resolve the country's most important security and economic problems, he said.

Kelam in the interview said that Estonia must not go to Europe "as a schoolboy, who unconditionally tries to adjust himself to everything that exists."

"Estonia is bringing to Europe its experience, a national tradition and individuality. We must not loose or underestimate these qualities," he said.

Kelam pointed out that Estonia can get a very important mediator's role in Europe both politically and culturally. "I wouldn't place the accent on the final point of the integration with Europe, but on that the beginning of the process has been a promising one and we have managed to earn a good reputation in Europe," he said.

Government Consents to Ethnic Minorities Pact

WS2004124394 Tallinn ETA in English 1626 GMT 19 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Government gave authorities to deputy chancellor of the Foreign Ministry Raul Malk to sign an agreement between Estonia and Belarus on national minorities, Reform Minister Liia Hanni told a press conference on Tuesday [19 April].

Hanni said that the agreement will include both Estonian nationals that live in Belarus and have Belarusian citizenship and Belarusians that have Estonian citizenship. She said that the reason the agreement had to be concluded was that there were not enough Belarusians in Estonia to grant them rights according to the law on cultural autonomy, which gives bigger minorities in Estonia rights to found cultural organisations, open schools etc.

Japanese Bank, EBRD Conclude Loan Agreement

WS2004124294 Tallinn ETA in English 1626 GMT 19 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 19—Estonian Minister of Finance Heiki Kranich signed, on Tuesday [19 April], a tripartite cooperation agreement between the Government of Estonia, Japan Export-Import Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], Ministry of Finance informed ETA. According to the agreement the Japanese bank will grant Estonia a 30-million dollar loan, which will be used to co-financing of EBRD project loans.

Similar agreements were concluded with Latvia on $30 million and $40 million for Lithuania.

At the EBRD annual meeting in St. Petersburg, that started on Monday, Estonian delegation, that includes Minister of Finance Heiki Kranich, government advisor Madis Urike and other high officials, had meetings with President of EBRD Jacques de Laroisiere, President of Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashtshenko and representatives of leading credit organisations of the world. All of them noted the positive developments in Estonia and expressed their wish to support Estonia, the Estonian Ministry of Finance informs.

Russian Citizens League Elects Representative

WS2004113294 Tallinn BNS in English 1849 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 19, BNS—The representative of Russian radical nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic party in Estonia, Pyotr Rozhok, was elected the chairman of the presidium of Tallinn's League of Russian Citizens.

The organization of Russian citizens in the Estonian capital was established on April 9.

Rozhok said the new body is to defend the interests of Russian citizen residents of Tallinn. He added that this was to be done "only within the limits set by legal acts," by bringing, as he said, to the world's notice all violations of the rights of Russian citizens in Estonia. The new body is to address the United Nations and the Russian parliament on the issue in the near future, Rozhok said.

He added that there are about 30,000 legal Russian citizens living in Tallinn.

The organization in Tallinn will also prepare the documents necessary for its registration with the Estonian authorities. "But I'm more than sure that we will never be registered," Rozhok said.

The league is also an in corpore member of the Russian Community of Estonia, another hardline Russian-speakers' organization that has failed so far to gain a formal status with Estonia's authorities.

More than 42,000 Estonian residents have taken Russian citizenship by now.

Unemployment Rate Rises to 2.22 Percent

WS2004190994 Tallinn BNS in English 1505 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 20, BNS—Estonia as of April 1 had registered 19,521 persons as unemployed. The figure makes up 2.22 percent of the country's population in the working age groups.

This is the highest recorded unemployment rate in Estonia since last May, when the figure rose to 2.6 percent.

The Estonian Labor Market Department in its comments to the report says the tendency toward higher jobless rates is due to the general restructuring under way in the economy, as well as the privatization of state companies. Another factor contributing to higher rates in Estonia is the establishment of local employment record offices in rural areas, which makes it easier for residents in more distant areas to come to register.

The highest regional unemployment rate for April 1 was 7.33, also up from 6.46 percent of March 1, reported in the northeastern town of Narva, where 3,545 had been registered as out of job. Next on the list came the southeastern Vorumaa region with 6.47 percent, or 1,500 jobless, and its neighboring Polva region with 6.31 percent, or 1,171 jobless. Unemployment rates were also above five percent in the northeastern Ida-Virumaa region with the town of Kohtla- Jarve, as well as on the western island of Hiiumaa.

The country's capital, Tallinn, still manages to keep jobless rates low, reporting a meager 0.127-percent unemployment, or 754 residents officially without a job.

Estonia as of March 1 had registered 18,273 jobless, which corresponds to a national unemployment rate of 2.08 percent.

Latvia

Government Wins Confidence Vote in Saeima

LD2104093494 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] At a plenary session of the Saeima today, deputies passed a vote of confidence in the government. The confidence motion, for which 51 deputies voted in favor, was proposed by the Latvian Way group.

After the vote, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs said:

[Begin Birkavs recording] I am satisfied, not because I have kept my post, but because the government will have the opportunity to further implement the declaration intended by the government. [end recording]

Saeima Fails To Authorize Agreements Signing

WS2104110894 Tallinn BNS in English 1003 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 21, BNS—During its extraordinary plenary meeting Wednesday [20 April] night, the Latvian Saeima (parliament) did not authorize the Latvian president, Guntis Ulmanis, to sign Latvian-Russian initialed interstate agreements because the Latvian National Independence Movement and the Homeland and Freedom factions left the plenary meeting's hall before the voting for the draft resolution had started.

After a long debate, when voting for separate items, the Saeima accepted the Latvia's Way drafted resolution providing for the the president to be authorized to sign the draft agreements, initialed March 15, on complete withdrawal of Russia army from Latvia, the withdrawal conditions, terms, order and army's legal status during the withdrawal; on Skrunda radar station's legal status during its temporary functioning on Latvia's soil; on Russian militaries' and their family members' protection till the complete army withdrawal.

The Saeima also supported the draft resolution's 2nd part providing for the Cabinet to form an experts' group to revise the draft agreement on Russian retired militaries' and their family members' social protection.

According to the international legal norms, this document must promote the elimination of the occupation consequences in Latvia. Becuse the two above mentioned Saeima factions left the plenary meeting before the voting, the final decision could not be accepted because of lack of quorum.

After the plenary meeting, President Guntis Ulmanis refused to comment the situation.

Majority in Saeima Support Yeltsin Meeting

WS2004135794 Tallinn BNS in English 0922 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 20, BNS—The majority of the Saeima (parliament) factions' leaders support Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis decision to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on April 21, Homeland and Freedom faction head Maris Grinblats told reporters Tuesday [19 April].

As reported, Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh handed over Tuesday to Ulmanis Russian president's invitation to meet with him on April 21.

Grinblats said it was not yet clear if the signing of the Latvian-Russian initialed agreements would be possible during this visit. But it is clear already now that the agreement on Russian military pensioners' social guarantees will not be signed in Moscow, said Grinblats.

As reported, the Saeima will decide Wednesday, during its extraordinary plenary meeting, if it will authorize Ulmanis to sign the initialed Latvian-Russian agreements.

Cabinet Raises Minimum Salary, Sets Pensióner Rules

WS2004135294 Tallinn BNS in English 0922 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Riga, Apr 20, BNS—The Latvian Cabinet decided Tuesday [19 April] to raise the minimum salary from 15 lats (26 U.S. dollars) to 22.50 lats (38 U.S. dollars), the Cabinet's press secretary, Sergejs Ancupovs, said at a briefing.

The government also determined regulations on order of giving pensions to those pensioners who still work. The regulations provide for the state employment services to find working places being vacant for two months. Pensioners will be allowed to take these jobs and receive both: pension and salary. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Ends NATO Talks

WS2004142394 Riga LETA in English 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, April 20, LETA—According to the Latvian Embassy in Belgium, the Latvian defence minister, Valdis Pavlovskis's, visit to Belgium ended. During his visit, the defence minister of the Republic of Latvia met with NATO's Secretary General, Manfred Woerner, and other NATO officials.

Valdis Pavlovskis briefed them on the structure of the Defence Forces in Latvia and the possibility of their further improvement, spoke of Latvia's participation in NATO's programme "Partnership for Peace" and of the Latvian-Russian relations.

Representatives from NATO stated that they are interested in practical cooperation with the Latvian Defence Ministry and the Defence Forces of the Republic of Latvia. They affirmed support in the question of Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia according to the schedule and the idea of the formation of the Baltic states' peacekeeping battalion. The possibility of signing a treaty on mutual cooperation between Defence Ministries was also discussed at the meeting.

Group Denies Fault for Troop Accord

WS2004113194 Tallinn BNS in English 1849 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 19, BNS—The Latvian National Independence Movement faction claims that its members Alexander Kirsteins and Juris Sinka are not responsible for the initialed agreements on Russian troop withdrawal.

Sinka and Kirsteins were absent from a government sitting in which the text of the package was approved, Kirsteins said.

The two MPs are members of the Latvian delegation for talks with Russia.

Leftist Party Not To Run in Elections

WS2004113394 Tallinn BNS in English 1849 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 19, BNS—The leftist Democratic Initiative Center [DIC] party will not participate in the local government elections in order "not to take away votes from other political organizations," said party spokesman Olegs Vovks.

The local government election law does not correspond to the party's program that supports the franchise of all residents, Vovks said.

Commeting on the League of Stateless Persons, Vovk said it had no rights to represent all 700,000 non-citizens of Latvia in the local elections as it wanted to do.

The Democratic Initiative Center would endorse a popular referendum on citizenship proposing a five year residence qualification, language skills and knowledge of basic principles of Constitution as terms for naturalization, Vovks said.

Vovks conceded that he did not believe that Latvian citizens would support DIC version for the country's

citizenship law. But he said the party would still demand a referendum to bring the citizenship problem in the focus of popular attention.

DIC was founded in 1989. It has a membership of 53 now.

Lithuania

Stricter Rules for National Defense Introduced

WS2004134794 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 14 Apr 94 No. 72 p 5

[Report attributed to BNS: "Government Toughens Rules for Arming National Defense System"]

[Text] From now on, the national defense system will be supplied with arms and ammunition only by the Lithuanian Arms Fund. This decision was adopted by the government, which also approved the rules for the national defense system to acquire, keep account of, store, and distribute arms and ammunition. Under the 8 April resolution, firearms and ammunition will now be assigned to the national defense structure only by the national defense minister's order, and to units of this structure—by order of their commanders and chiefs.

Fixed rules will be defined by the minister, following the national defense statutes and requirements: The account of firearms must be centralized, indicating their caliber, make, number, and price. All arms and ammunition must be kept in storehouses, which must be installed to ensure reliable arms protection. Arms can be distributed only to guards, daytime patrol services, as well as for scheduled exercises.

In other cases, arms and ammunition can be distributed only with the permission of the national defense minister, the Army chief, the chief of the General Staff, the chief of the State Border Defense Service, and the director of the Civil Defense Department.

The minister's order allows officials of the national defense system to always carry pistols and revolvers. The loss of firearms and ammunition must be immediately reported to the Prosecutor General's Office, a city or regional prosecutor's office, the national defense minister, the Army commander, the chief of the State Border Defense Service, and the director of the Civil Defense Department. A quota is set in each such case.

According to the resolution, important state and other facilities are guarded with service arms only after the government adopts a decision on their protection. Officials of the national defense system are accountable for the illegal possession and use of arms under Lithuanian law.

Protocol Signed Regulating Relations With Norway

WS2104110994 Tallinn BNS in English 1845 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 20, BNS—Albinas Januska, Lithuanian deputy foreign minister, and Per Gullik Stavnum, Norway's ambassador to Lithuania, on Wednesday [20 April] signed a protocol on agreements regulating relations between the two countries.

The protocol annulled a 1923 agreement on trade and navigation and a reciprocal agreement on exempting automobiles and other motor vehicles from road taxes, the Lithuanian Ministry said.

The two pre-war agreements were replaced by a free trade agreement and an agreement on international transportation by road.

A ministry official said the protocol eliminated certain legal problems because both pre-war and newly signed agreements were considered effective.

Prime Minister Discusses Energy Situation

LD2004181694 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] To date, the Lithuanian economy subjects debt to the power engineering system is in the sum of 230 million litas. This was said by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius on Lithuanian Radio today.

According to him, the government will be compelled to adopt unpopular measures because such a debt cannot be endless. In spite of all debts, the supply of hot water to Lithuania's residents will not be interrupted. It is natural that the prices of the power engineering sources will go up, because they have not changed for almost a year, and inflation has been taking place in all branches of the economy, said Adolfas Slezevicius. The compensation mechanism, because of the future increase in the price for people who must be socially supported, has already been prepared.

According to the prime minister, in the size of fuel and electricity subsidies, Lithuania occupies first place among the Baltic states. According to him, Lithuania subsidizes about 70 percent of the true price of electricity, Latvia—about 30 percent, and Estonia has altogether rejected such subsidies. This year over 200 million litas are to be allocated in the budget to subsidize the power engineering system.

Power Engineering Minister Algimantas Stasiukynas, who took part in the broadcast, said that the power engineering system has so far used about 145 million dollars of foreign credits. Commenting on such use of foreign credits by Lithuania, Adolfas Slezevicius said that because of a great shortage of turnover funds in the power engineering system and of high debts for fuel to foreign countries, we have been compelled to use part of

the foreign credits to amass state fuel reserves. According to him, this made it possible essentially, to eliminate all debts for the purchase of fuel and remain warm during the last winter.

Today, Lithuania has no oil debts, and the natural gas debt is in the sum of 25 million dollars. Meanwhile, the gas consumers debt to the power engineering system is in the sum of 60 million dollars. By the way, Lithuania has been paying world prices for fuel for the second year now.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Partnership for Peace

WS2004112994 Tallinn BNS in English 1849 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 19, BNS—The basic principles of Lithuania's participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program are ready, said Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, who also heads a group preparing Lithuania's presentation document for the program.

At a press conference Tuesday [19 April], Januska said the Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces Staff are expected to present their final suggestions in the near future, and the document will then be submitted to NATO for consideration.

In his words, NATO experts are satisfied with Lithuania's document as a basis for developing cooperation with the alliance, including participation in peacekeeping missions.

"The document for participation in Partnership for Peace is our preparation for expanding NATO toward the East," Januska said. He noted that NATO experts suggested not to hasten the preparation of the presentation document, in order to make it as constructive as possible.

The deputy minister said the State Defense Council's decision to hand over border control to the Interior Ministry is reflected in the presentation document.

Januska was unable to estimate the approximate cost of Lithuania's participation in the program, but he expressed hope that NATO members will help to implement the program. According to the partnership Framework Document, which was signed by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas in Brussels January 27, each country will fund its own participation in partnership activities, although assistance through bilateral agreements with NATO members is also possible. Januska noted that Denmark and Great Britain have greatly contributed to the creation of a Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

Union of Peasants Forms Political Party

WS2004113494 Tallinn BNS in English 1859 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 19, BNS—The Lithuanian Union of Peasants, which resumed its activities in 1990 after a 50-year break, was reorganized into a political party at the union's congress last weekend.

The union said "neither the leftists nor the rightists care about peasants in Lithuania, therefore there is nothing left to do but to unite ourselves into a party."

The new party's principal aims will be to implement the land reform and the law on cooperatives.

During its congress, the union sharply criticized the previous parliament for its "ruinous" land policy and the present government for reducing import tariffs on agricultural production. The union qualified such measures as "the government's direct aggression against local farmers."

The congress elected independent MP Albinas Vaismuzis to head the new party. Vaismuzis, who was elected in a single-mandate district, said his party's orientation is "to the left of the center."

Antitank Mine Found in Vilnius Square

LD2004193894 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] A fully charged antitank mine was found on Tuesday morning on the railroad station square in Vilnius. The police received information about the mine at 0645. The fire brigade and police blocked all approaches to the railroad station. The mine was disarmed. It had been wrapped in a polyethylene bag and could explode if touched by a passing vehicle. It took 45 minutes to eliminate the danger. During this time all operations at the Vilnius railroad station were stopped.

The police had difficulty shutting trading kiosks as their owners, according to policemen, preferred to lose their lives than leave their property.

Foreign Minister Sees Hardening Russian Stance

LD2004221094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys says Russia appears to have hardened its position towards Lithuania. The foreign minister, who is visiting Brazil, told the Russian ITAR-TASS agency on Wednesday that he knew of no reasons why Lithuanian-Russian relations should deteriorate.

According to Mr. Gylys, Russia is halting the ratification of the bilateral agreement on most favored nation status in trade signed last autumn. Russia has already granted privileged trade terms to 130 countries, however,this does not apply to the Baltic states. Lithuania carries out

its all commitments to Russia and would like Moscow in its turn to observe its obligations to Lithuania, said the Lithuanian foreign minister.

Protest to Poland on History 'Distortions'

LD2004220094 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 20 Apr 94

[Text] The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a note to the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on some distortions in Polish publications.

The Polish Information Agency has been distributing at the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg a publication entitled "Outlines of the History of the Polish State," in which the Vilnius area is included in Poland.

The information and press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that attention is drawn in the note to the fact that the distribution of such publications on the eve of the meeting of the Lithuanian and Polish presidents cannot but provoke a negative assessment by Lithuanian society and does not contribute to the consolidation of good relations between the two countries.

Viewers Ask for Ostankino Programs To Continue

MK2004121094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 16, 20 Apr 94 (Signed to press 19 Apr) p 9A

[Galina Afanasyeva report in the "Situation" column: "Lithuania Watches Ostankino"]

[Text] Recently the governing board of the Lithuanian Radio and TV Company asked viewers to respond to the question: Should the Ostankino TV channel be preserved in Lithuania?

The request was due to the fact that this year the term of the agreement whereby the Ostankino TV Company covered the costs of beaming its programs to Lithuania has run out. As of April, Channel I programs were to be broadcast free of charge only up to the borders.

In Lithuania, where Russian speakers constitute less than 20 percent, Ostankino's rating is substantially higher than of other TV companies, including state TV. Therefore Lithuanian Radio and TV Company executives decided to conduct a survey to make sure whether it is worth asking the government to allocate funds from its scarce budget to pay for Ostankino programs.

In spite of the fact that this appeal to viewers came on the eve of a holiday—the Catholic Easter—the Radio and TV Committee was showered with letters. According to Committee Board Chairman Gedeminas Ilgunas, 90 percent of correspondents—predominantly Lithuanians—spoke in favor of keeping the Ostankino channel. The Lithuanian Radio and TV directors considered this sufficient grounds for forwarding an official request to the government on allocating the requisite funds.

Experts estimate that to satisfy the Lithuanians' wish to watch Ostankino from 1800 till the end of the programs (on average 45 hours a week), 800,000 lits ($200,000) will be needed annually. The board is going to ask the government for another 200,000 lits to pay for Mayak radio broadcasts.

These spending plans were called into question by opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis. He promised to state his case in a special letter to the premier. Now it is up to the government to decide who has a stronger case to argue.